MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Military Situation--Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radio reported that fighting continued intermittently throughout the weekend in Beirut and Zahlah. According to Beirut radio the situation was calm in Beirut by the evening of 11 April, and a new cease-fire was agreed to in Zahlah. Voice of Lebanon stated, however, that the Syrians were staging violent attacks on Christian positions in the hills surrounding Zahlah that evening. The radio reported heavy Syrian shelling of Qa' ar-Rim village near Zahlah on 12 April but Beirut radio said the situation was still calm in Zahlah and Beirut. Earlier, AFP had reported that Syrian forces were launching a major encirclement operation around Zahlah on 10 April. An Arab Deterrent Forces spokesman claimed in a 10 April statement, broadcast by Beirut radio, that ADF units were firing in response to shelling from the west. In the south, Christian militia forces under Maj Sa'd Haddad shelled An-Nabatiyah on 10 April, Beirut radio reported. Jerusalem radio said the IDF had killed or injured around 20 Palestinians and had knocked out 2 tanks in their previously reported dawn raid on Palestinian positions.

Political Developments--Secretary of State Alexander Haig discussed the Lebanese situation during his 11 April meeting with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Foreign Minister Vean Francois-Poncet, Paris radio reported. After the meeting, the radio said, Secretary Haig disclosed that France and the United States are considering the need to set up a UN force for Lebanon. The following day, the French foreign minister told the radio that he had decided to summon a number of French ambassadors, including those in Syria and Lebanon, to a conference in Paris to discuss ways of reestablishing a cease-fire in Lebanon and creating a lasting peace in the country. Beirut radio reported that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan summoned the French ambassador before his departue for Paris to inform him of the Lebanese Govenrment's views about any possible French diplomatic moves.

Jerusalem radio reported on 12 April that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has stressed that Israel would not interfere with the establishment of a multinational force in southern Lebanon. KUNA, citing the Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN, revealed that Kuwait has held contacts with some Arab countries to formulate a peace plan to settle the Lebanese crisis. The Kuwaiti prime minister has sent a message to his Syrian counterpart containing Kuwait's proposals, AL-WATAN said.

Palestine National Council Session

Damascus radio and television carried live the opening of the 15th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Damascus on 11 April. In a lengthy speech at the session Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad stated that the great plot against the Arab homeland has become clearer since the previous PNC meeting in 1979. The U.S. scheme of imposing hegemony over the Arabs through the establishment of military bases and a military alliance in the region has, he declared, succeeded in "Arabizing" the struggle in the Middle East, transforming the Arab-Israeli conflict into a wider Arab-Arab struggle. Secretary Haig came to the region not to discuss peace, he claimed, but to mobilize the Arabs to fight the Soviet Union on behalf of the United States. Al-Asad said the U.S. attempt to make Syria abandon the Palestinian issue has caused difficulties that Syria would not have otherwise faced. He avowed that the only peace that Syria will support is a "Palestinian peace," adding that Palestine comes before the Golan Heights in Syria's scale of priorities. Assailing the United States for implementing Israeli policy in the Middle East, Al-Asad declared that those Arabs who imagine themselves to be friends of the United States are in reality followers or agents of the Americans.

On the other hand, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said in his speech that the cordial and cooperative ties that several Arab countries enjoy with the United States should help modify U.S. policy toward the Palestinian question. PNC Speaker Khalif al-Fahum, however, in his speech to the session, scored Secretary Haig's "suspicious" visit to the Middle East and his "vitriolic" statements against the PLO and Syria.

Israel

Shamir Interview--In an IDF radio interview, broadcast on 10 April, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the U.S. strategy of trying to moderate Saudi Arabia's policy toward Israel by making the Saudis more reliant on the United States is "more a vision than a program." Reiterating Israel's hostility to any U.S. decision to supply military equipment to Saudi Arabia, Shamir noted that the United States has nevertheless expressed willingness to help Israel economically. This would not be compensation for any U.S. deal with the Saudis, Shamir said, but would take the form of a continued high level of U.S. aid to Israel, including loans on good terms, and U.S. encouragement for Israeli exports, including arms. Regarding the inflamed situation in Lebanon, Shamir said Israel wants a free and independent Lebanon, liberated from Syrian and Palestinian occupation. He noted that the United States has been making strong efforts to defuse the situation in Lebanon, partly to head off any Israeli intervention there. Israel cannot be a passive onlooker if its security interests in Lebanon are threatened, he said, but, on the other hand, it will never be dragged into a conflict in which it has no interest.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Nonaligned Peace Mission--The four-man Nonaligned Movement peace committee arrived in Tehran on 10 April after spending 2 days in Iraq, Tehran radio reported. According to the radio, the committee met on 11 April with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who explained Iran's position and its conditions for ending the war with Iraq. He told them that the nonaligned countries are dutybound to demand an end to Iraqi aggression. The members of the mission expressed no disagreement with the president's views, the radio said, and promised to continue their efforts. The report added that the committee will return to Iran within a week with a proposal. Tehran radio later said the committee left Tehran for India on 12 April after visiting the cities of Dezful and Ahvaz, which reportedly have been heavily damaged by Iraqi artillery and rocket attacks.

Military Situation--According to reports by Tehran radio, fighting in the southern towns of Abadan and Khuninshahr and along the Shatt al-'Arab intensified over the last few days. Iranian helicopters attacked Iraqi forces along the waterway, it claimed, and returned safely to base. A statement by the revolution guards corps, reported by the radio, said guards and air force units have recently conducted joint land and air operations on the Darkhovin front, destroying Iraqi equipment and installations. Fighting along the western fronts has diminished to some extent because of rainfall, another report said, but exchanges of artillery fire are continuing. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that Iraqi aircraft attacked Iranian units in the Meymak and Dezful areas, scoring direct hits and returning safely to base. Another communique, also carried by INA, said Iranian helicopters were shot down over Iraqi positions in the Gilan-e Gharb and Dezful areas.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech--Tehran radio broadcast the text of an 11 April speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in which he said certain propaganda organs have falsely been saying that the Iranian people have tired of and turned away from the Islamic Republic. Khomeyni told the gathering in Tehran's Hoseyniyeh Jamaran that such propagandists should see for themselves that apart from some unimportant "stooges" of the East or West, the Iranian people still enthusiastically support the revolution. However, he warned that the nation is being assailed on an unprecedented level by "evil propaganda" and plots.

Hoseyn Khomeyni Interview--In an interview published on 3 April by the Netherlands newspaper DE VOLKSKRANT, Hoseyn Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khomeyni's grandson, criticized the Islamic Republican Party (IRP), saying that most Iranian clergymen are dissatisfied with the present IRP government. Iran needs "capable" political leaders like President Bani-Sadr, he said, not religious leaders who lack the capacity to govern.

Statement Condemning U.S., Europe--A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, broadcast by Tehran radio, strongly criticized European and U.S. policies in the Middle East and said that Iran will confront any move that might threaten the independence or integrity of the Islamic Republic. Iran, it said, will consider any military maneuver in the Persian Gulf or region with the help of the "agents of imperialism" as a threat to Iran and to the other countries of the area. Only the countries of the Persian Gulf region can achieve peace and stability in the region, the statement asserted, pointing out that because Iran has the longest border along the Gulf, it is the most important element in achieving that stability. The well-being of the region, the statement concluded, depends on keeping the superpowers out.

Bani-Sadr on MIZAN Editor--AFP reported in an interview published by ENQELAB-E ESLAMI on 12 April, President Bani-Sadr described the arrest of MIZAN's editor Reza Sadr as an illegal action.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi met with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper, INA reported. They discussed the situation in the region and the future of bilateral relations.

Saudi-YAR Relations

In the wake of recent reports of clashes along the Saudi-YAR border, KUNA reported that Saudi Minister of the Interior Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told the newspaper 'UKAZ that no fighting has occurred. Also citing 'UKAZ, Riyadh radio reported that Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that attempts to cast doubt on the good relations between Saudi Arabia and the YAR are signs of sick and evil intentions.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 070 *13 April 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

15th PNC Session Held in Damascus Beginning 11 Apr A 1
Attendees Listed A 1
Session Opening A 1
Chedli Klibi Speech A 1
Al-Fahum Address A 4
Al-Asad Speech A 6
12 Apr Meeting [VOP] A 12
More on 12 Apr Meeting A 13
13 Apr Meeting A 14
Palestine Broadcast on Session A 15
Libya Reportedly Interfering With PNC Elections A 15
[London AL-MAJALLAH 11-17 Apr]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Papers View Secretary Haig's Mideast Tour C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Minister Denies 'Adjustment' to AWACS Agreement C 1
Editorials View Results of Secretary Haig's Trip C 2
ARAB NEWS Comment [10 Apr] C 2
'UKAZ Editorial [10 Apr] C 2

PDRY

Paper Comments on Haig's 'Sinister' Mideast Tour C 3

EGYPT

Commentary Views U.S. Mideast Policy Priorities D 1
Ghali Returns From Geneva, Makes Statement D 2
Spokesman Denies Dispatch of Soldiers to Sudan D 2

IRAQ

Ba'th Party Sends Message to PNC Session E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communiques 10-12 Apr E 1
Communique No 302 E 1
Communique No 303 E 2
Communique No 304 E 3
Anti-Syrian Radio Claims Syrians Sent To Aid Iran E 4
Economic, Trade Cooperation With Jordan Bolstered E 4

JORDAN

Al-Qasim Interviewed on Topics of Haig Talks F 1
[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 12 Apr]
Commentary Reacts to Al-Asad's PNC Speech F 2

LEBANON

VOL Reports on Fighting in Zahlah, Beirut 12 Apr G 1
Later Report: Zahlah Calm G 1
ADF Issues Statement on Beirut, Zahlah Incidents G 1
Butrus Discusses Situation With UN Officials G 2
Al-Wazzan Meets PRC Envoy, Views U.S. Statement G 2
Al-Wazzan Views Israeli Attacks, Efforts to Unify Israeli 'Aggressions' G 3

ISRAEL

Begin Speaks on Lebanese Situation, Other Issues I 1
Arms Deals, Elections I 1
Cabinet Meeting Discusses Lebanon, Other Subjects I 2
Haig Visit, AWACS Issue I 2
Shamir Interviewed on U.S. Strategy, Other Topics I 2
Tzipori Comments on Haig's Middle East Visit I 8
Tzipori Discusses Lebanon With UN's Erskine I 8

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Freetown UN Economic Ministerial Meeting Ends P 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B Attacks 'Objectives' of Haig Tour Q 1

LIBYA

Official Explains Boycott of Refugee Conference Q 2
Jallud Meets East German Officials in Berlin Q 2

MAURITANIA

Prime Minister Leaves for Visit to Libya 10 Apr Q 2

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Yepishev Holds Talks With Mengistu, Ends Visit R 1
Air Force Base Visit R 1
Yepishev-Mengistu Talks R 1
Departure Remarks R 1
Foreign Minister Leaves for Algiers 12 Apr R 2

KENYA

President Issues Warning to 'Disruptive' Elements R 2

SEYCHELLES

Stronger Protection of Economic Zone Urged R 2

TANZANIA

Accord Reached With Cuba on Development Projects R 3
Official on Commodities Distribution, Oil Use R 3

UGANDA

Muwanga Speaks on Tanzanian Withdrawal, Security R 3
Troop Withdrawal in June R 4
Warning to 'Bandits' R 4

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Communique Issued on UDC Congress in Bangui S 1

WEST AFRICA

LIBERIA

Doe Addresses Nation on First Anniversary T 1
Further Details T 4

NIGERIA

Communique on Algerian President's Visit Reported T 4
Chad's Goukouni Meets With Bendjedid in Lagos T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Assesses Situation in Sofala Province U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Proposes Regional Cooperation U 2

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Meets With U.S. Official U 3

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Addresses Officers on Need for Unified Army U 3
Minister Announces Lifting of Bulawayo Curfew U 4

BRIEFS

Italian Loan for Angola; Angolan-Italian Oil Accord; U 4
Angolan-GDR Energy Agreement; Angolan-Mozambique Universities

15TH PNC SESSION HELD IN DAMASCUS BEGINNING 11 APR

Attendees Listed

JN121312 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The 15th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] began its work this morning under PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum. Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, attended the session. Also attending the session were: the members of the PLO Executive Committee; several comrade members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's National and Regional Commands; representatives of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's command and of the Jordanian National Movement; and the heads and members of the delegations participating in the session.

Session Opening

JN111817 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic in a hookup with Syrian television begins at 1700 GMT on 11 April a live broadcast of the opening of the 15th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] at the Damascus University auditorium. At 1722 GMT the announcer reports the arrival of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who is accompanied by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC; and Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. Immediately afterward, Al-Fahum inaugurates the session with a brief speech in which he recalls the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution and then calls on everyone to observe 1 minute of silence in honor of the martyrs. Al-Fahum then invites Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to address the council. Klibi begins speaking at 1730 GMT and concludes at 1757 GMT.

At 1757 GMT the service carries the speech by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, who concludes his speech at 1832 GMT by inviting Syrian President al-Asad to deliver the opening speech. Al-Asad concludes his speech at 1916 GMT.

The live broadcast ends at 1918 GMT with an announcement by PNC Speaker al-Fahum that the PNC session will reconvene at 0800 GMT on 12 April.

Chedli Klibi Speech

JN120745 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Speech by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at the opening of the 15th session of the Palestine National Council at the Damascus University auditorium--live]

[Excerpts] In the name God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Excellency, president of the republic, Brother Struggler Yasir 'Arafat, Brother Speaker, brothers: It is a source of pride to respond to the kind invitation addressed to me to attend the Palestine National Council [PNC] session, which is acquiring great significance in the present circumstances. The Arab peoples and various foreign circles are eagerly awaiting the results of this session which will further enhance your revolution and define the line to be followed by your revolution, which has become respected and revered by all countries and public opinion in the world.

What has also added to the significance of this session is that it is being held in Damascus, the capital of the country which has continuously stood fast throughout the stages of struggle [applause] since the occupation of Palestine and has remained steadfast up to this day, strongly and resolutely resisting Zionist aggression against the region. The presence of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in this session confirms the Syrian leadership's determination to always remain in the vanguard of Arab struggle for the sake of freedom and dignity.

Allow me, brothers, to address from this podium the fraternal Egyptian people [applause] and their national forces who oppose Egypt's isolation from its Arabdom, strive to foil the Camp David plans, burn the flags of Zionism in the streets of Cairo and raise the banners of Palestine in the sky of Egypt. These national forces, which are represented in this hall by notable figures, are the ones that truly express the position of the great Egyptian people and their nobility and Arabism. They are the ones who represent the Arab nation's reserve and Egypt's vanguard in the struggle for the sake of our great cause.

Brothers, the Zionist enemy had thought that the occupation of Palestine in 1948 and later in 1967 and the expulsion of the Palestinians from their lands would weaken the will of this people, freeze their resistance, silence their voice and crush them morally prior to completely eliminating their identity, but the refugees in the camps and the strugglers, who are scattered in various countries of the world and who have held to their homes despite oppression and terrorism, have proved their real nobility. They were not affected by catastrophes. Privation and dispersion have only made them more determined to remain steadfast and fight. Thanks to this spirit of struggle, and despite all the aid and support received by the Zionist enemy from one of the two superpowers, the Palestinian revolution has been able, in a comparatively short period, to score a number of brilliant successes.

Brothers, your revolution--the revolution of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO--has rightly and deservedly gained an international recognition that has not been enjoyed by any other liberation revolution or movement. The entire international community recognizes the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of the countries of the world have recognized your right to establish your independent state and considered your esteemed organization to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Even the European states have recognized your legitimate rights, despite some ambiguity in their declared stands. We hope that this ambiguity will be removed in the next few months and replaced by clarity, frankness and loyalty to the principles on which their societies are based.

We must point here to the abnormality of the U.S. position, which has deviated from these principles. The new U.S. administration seems still captive of Zionist influence, unaware of the dangers that are menacing peace in the area and in the world as a result of continued U.S. support for Zionist aggression and the attempt to change the list of priorities in the area. Otherwise, what did the U.S. adviser on national security mean when he said that the PLO is a terrorist organization? We wonder about the logic used by this U.S. official, who seems to have suddenly forgotten that the majority of contemporary societies, including the U.S. society, have stemmed from revolutionary movements which were once considered terrorist by their opponents. It is not logical to consider the principles of justice, freedom and dignity, which are stipulated in the U.S. Constitution, sacred when applied to some people, but to consider them violence, terrorism and savageness when the matter concerns other peoples.

The U.S. official says: We do not have solid proof that the leader of the PLO is a moderate figure. The truth is, several world leaders have admired the statemanship demonstrated by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in his political stands, diplomatic talks and wise leadership. This applies both to him and to his colleagues in the PLO.

Can anyone forget that the State of Israel was founded on the most hideous forms of violence and terrorism--on racism, fanaticism and hatred. Israel has resorted to every means to seize the lands of the Palestinian people and to expel them from their homes. History records the atrocities which Zionism has committed against the innocent Palestinian people.

Brothers, terrorism today is truly embodied in the Israeli entity. I am not saying this because of the fact that the current Israeli prime minister was the leader of the Irgun gang in his youth or that the Israeli foreign minister was the leader of the Stern gang in his youth--and that both of them were directly responsible for the Dayr Yasin massacre, unprecendented in its savageness and unforgivable because it was committed by the very people who were victims of Nazism--but because Israel now, as a state, is practicing against the Arabs the most hideous forms of terrorism and racial discrimination condemned by the UN Charter, violating man's cultural heritage and desecrating religious places so as to turn Jerusalem into a purely Jewish city by confiscating land, setting up buildings, distorting historical landmarks and desecrating religious places.

We must say here that the tragedy suffered for years by the Lebanese people, who are dear to all of us, was caused by Israel and its continuous plots to strike at the Palestinian resistance and to threaten the bastion of Arab steadfastness--Syria. [applause] Israel has sought to blow up the national accord, which forms the basis of Lebanese society, and to weaken the legitimate Lebanese authority prior to finally fragmenting Lebanon's territorial integrity and establishing proof that coexistence between the Christian and Muslim communities is impossible. This is sheer nonsense, because coexistence among the different religious communities has been characteristic of the Arab world throughout history.

In this respect we proudly commend the good offices being offered by the Arab governments, in cooperation with the Syrian Government, to reach a solution which would guarantee stability in Lebanon.

Brothers, Arab dignity means the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem [applause] and comprehensive development, which forms the basis of strength for all nations in the world. The Arab states realize that our nation will only be able to fully utilize its enormous material and manpower resources when peace is established in the area. Also, this peace can only be achieved through a just settlement of the Palestine question.

Actually, the Arab states' attachment to the Palestine question is a basic responsibility in the present and the future. This attachment calls for continuous Arab agreement on a number of principles, which can be summed up in ignoring false solutions and backing the Palestinian revolution with all our resources, including our political and economic resources which are great, in all foreign circles, especially with respect to the two superpowers, which have the final say on all matters.

As for the Soviet Union, we appreciate its support for the PLO and the Palestine question. We expect the friend of the Palestine question to make the just settlement of this question a condition for the resumption of the dialogue and cooperation between the two superpowers, just as the United States has made the defense of Israeli security a condition for rapprochment and cooperation. [applause] Since most of the Arab countries have cordial and cooperation ties with the USSR, this should help to make the USSR give more support to the central Arab issue.

As for the United States, we say that, while we are disappointed by its biased stands, which are contrary to the most sacred principle of U.S. democracy; namely, the right of peoples to determine their own destiny, we believe the cordial and cooperative ties which several of our countries have with the United States should help modify U.S. policy toward the Arab east, especially the Palestine question. We must announce here a new and with all clarity to the U.S. administration that a correct solution to the issue of the Arab east can only be achieved by resorting to realism, which says that the Palestinians are not a handful of refugees, but a people with a national identity, unified will and determination to fight for their freedom and dignity regardless of sacrifice. This realism calls for recognizing the Palestinian people and enabling them to return to their homeland and establish their independent state. This is the only way to lasting peace.

The Americans are logical and realistic. They will not change their policy as long as they are convinced that it is not essential for the sake of protecting what they consider to be the basic interests of peace in the region. We must tell them very frankly what we consider to be the conditions of peace in the region. It has now become clear that continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory and denial of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people are the cause of instability and the lack of security and peace in the region. Peace in the Arab east cannot be achieved without enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their national rights. Every delay in seeking a just and equitable solution to the Palestine question will lead to disturbance, and every attempt to revive the Camp David accords will fail miserably. At any rate, we hope that the U.S. administration will not waste precious time and effort in useless attempts, as the previous administration did when it was bogged down in the Camp David labyrinths.

Brothers, your National Council, which is the conscience of the Palestinian people, is a living example of democracy. This council, which represents the overwhelming majority of the Palestinians, is the best indicator of what the Palestinian state would be like. The Palestinian state would be a political, economic and ideological democracy. It is also the best indicator of the positive role which will be played by the Palestinian people inside the Arab nation as the creators of social development, scientific progress and economic prosperity. It is also the best indicator that the Palestinian state would be a factor of stability and peace in the whole area, contrary to Israel which, since its establishment, has been a factor of tyranny, disturbance and threat to the Arab countries and peace in the area and the world at large. May God grant you success and guide your steps in your continuous revolution until victory. Peace be upon you.

Al-Fahum Address

JN121038 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1757 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Speech by Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum at the opening of the council's 15th session at the Damascus University auditorium--live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency, brother president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general; Brother Struggler Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement Central Political Council; dear guests and brothers: This is the second time that our Palestine National Council [PNC] convenes in free, steadfast and militant Arab Syria, which is offering sacrifices for the sake of Arab dignity and pride and for the Palestinian cause and the sons of Palestine. Our national, pan-Arab and moral obligations dictate that we begin our session by stressing that Syria, which is as solid as the mountains, is the shield of the Palestinian revolution, its lungs and supporter. The Syrian Arab soil is the hope and the starting point from which liberation will be achieved.

The conspiracy becomes more clear. Everything around us indicates that it is reaching its peak. Otherwise, what is the meaning of the feverish statements made daily by U.S. President Reagan's administration against the PLO, its leaders and factions? Otherwise what do the feverish U.S. attempts to foil the gains achieved by the Palestinian revolution in the international level mean? Otherwise, what is the meaning of the suspicious visit the U.S. secretary of state has paid to the area and the vitriolic statements he made against the PLO and Arab Syria? Otherwise why do As-Sadat's masters urge their trumpets to slander the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian leadership? Otherise why are incidents and clashes being fabricated in Lebanon and why are isolationists' voices being heard mouthing slogans which have no other meaning than to facilitate the designs of the United States and Israel to wrest Lebanon from the Arab body and make it an area of influence for Israel and imperialism?

From the PNC rostrum, we tell them in a united voice that the Palestinian revolution exists to triumph, that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, that the PLO is stronger than the imperialist paper tigers because it has become a symbol of the people's existence and the will of all the good forces which are struggling for peace in this world. There is no option other than the Palestinian option. Any other option is rejected. There is no representative except the PLO, which is backed by the Arab nation's will and the Arab summit resolutions. We reject Camp David, partial settlement, capitulation and treason.

Our people want the PNC to achieve an advanced phase on the road of national unity. Our people want to see a practical project that will unify financing, military forces and plans. We have the same objectives and destiny. Palestine is one. Our people can no longer suffer dispersion and division because division is the weak point which can be used by our enemies.

Brothers, we are committed to right and international legitimacy. We want our people to exercise the right of self-determination as all other peoples do. We insist on our right to return to our properties which have been plundered, to our lands which have been confiscated and usurped. We declare that all the illegal measures Israel has taken or is carrying out to confiscate our lands and establish settlements on them are null and void and cannot become a fait accompli. We stress that complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories is the basic condition for any form of just peace in the area. We reject the illusions of the U.S.-Israeli-As-Sadat peace because they would only result in the further entrenchment of Zionist-imperialist domination and would only provide cover for aggression, violation of human rights and disavowal of our people's rights and land. The PLO has always expressed its desire for the participation of all righteous world forces in a process of peace which adheres to the UN principles, resolutions and framework.

On this occasion we regret to mention that our official and parliamentary dialogue with Europe has not resulted in any positive initiative. We do not know how European parliamentarians explain the project of the European Parliament to link dialogue to the participation of As-Sadat. This is an improper interference in our affairs and could not have resulted from a misunderstanding. This is so because Europe, which is near us, knows that As-Sadat's regime is ostracized by all. Europe also knows that As-Sadat's regime was expelled from the Arab league, the Arab Parliamentary Union and from all other Arab organizations. As for the proud Egyptian Arab people, they support our Arab nation and we consider them to be the heart of our Arab body. This project, which is currently being discussed in the European Parliament, represents a disavowal of friendship and a disregard for the Arab people and Arab parliamentarians. We might deduce that this step at this stage in particular is new evidence that the series of conspiracies are being concocted by everyone and everywhere.

Brothers, we are much worried about what is taking place in Lebanon. Let our PNC discuss the subject with a sense of responsibility. Let it discuss the best methods to increase the efficiency of the Palestinian leadership for foiling aggression by various parties, which has as its target the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the Lebanese nationalist forces and Lebanese people. We are aware of what they are preparing. We know much about the moves of the Israeli generals among the ranks of the isolationist forces. We also know how to repulse them and have them return emptyhanded. We wish Lebanon all good. We wish the Lebanese people to enjoy safety and security. We support a united Lebanon and Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon. No Palestinian would ever think, for one moment, that there could be any substitute homeland to Palestine. If the Palestinians had wished to have a substitute homeland, they would have had it a long time ago and would have spared themselves the many sacrifices they offered and the sufferings they went through. By God, if they had put the sun in our right palm and the moon in our left, we would never have accepted any substitute for the Palestinian soil.

The real world, the world of principles, supports us. The socialist countries support us, led by the great Soviet Union. The Soviet Union supports us and provides us with assistance and has proved during difficult circumstances to be a true friend.

At the end, dear brothers, I wish to extend from this rostrum greetings to our militant brothers in the occupied homeland and to reiterate to them that we shall devote our days and nights to lessening their sufferings. Their steadfastness, heroism and sacrifices are infusing in us strength and determination to proceed with our struggle. They are the heart of our revolution and the guarantee to its triumph. Thanks to their steadfastness, we have been able so far to repulse the fiercest colonialist conspiracies. This fact will continue to be our guideline in all our actions during this session.

Al-Asad Speech

JN112041 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1832 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening of the 15th session of the Palestine National Council at the Damascus University auditorium--live]

[Text] Brother Speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], Brother Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, brother members of the council: Amid the most noble and fierce battle which we are waging together, for the sake of the most honorable and holy issue of our Arab nation; amid the hard struggle whose burdens are being shouldered by us; for the sale of the Arab dignity and fate, the PNC holds its 15th session. The convening of the PNC once again in Damascus is a new assertion of the ties of brotherhood and of brothers in arms that combine the sons of Syria and those of Palestine. It is also a new assertion of the unity of the battle and fate. The circumstances of the battle render this session of special significance and make the convening of the PNC under these fateful circumstances to debate and discuss vital matters that are related to the mother issue an event worthy of attention. Undoubtedly, it is an event enjoying vast importance on the Arab arena and on the international level.

Regardless of the behavior of the haughty people, of the procrastinators and of the plotters, all of them know well that the word is yours in the end and that what you decide here at your session as representatives of the Arab Palestinian people and for the sake of their issue will have a great effect in the area and the world.

Brothers, I am pleased to be with you on this occasion, responding to your invitation to attend the opening ceremony of this session. I welcome you in your country and among your kinfolk. I also welcome the PNC guests--brothers and friends--who came from our Arab homeland and the friendly countries to participate in this important meeting.

On behalf of our people, in my own name and in the name of our party--the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--[applause] we express our pride in the convening of your council in Damascus on the land of Syria of the revolution--the revolution of 8 March and that of the Arab Palestinian people. [applause] Our hearts and ideas, on this occasion, are first drawn to our kinfolk and brothers in the occupied homeland, the steadfast and patient heroes who, with their valor and their clinging to the land and homeland, have imposed their respect on the world. These are daily giving the most brilliant examples of steadfastness and resistence. Through heroism and sacrifice, these are proving that they are stronger than occupation and its suppression and that they are much too strong, stubborn and vigilant to be deceived by the imposters. Also, means of oppression and deception cannot defeat their valor.

To our brothers and sons in the occupied homeland and to all the sons of Palestine, I say once again that your position will remain in the heart of the Arab nation and that Syria will keep its faithful pledge to continue with you, with all its power, the march of struggle until God permits victory by liberating the occupied territories and returning their people with honor and dignity. [applause]

You march ahead and the entire Arab nation will be with you. [applause] Every defeatist and traitor will fall as we march along.

[Unidentified female in the audience interrupts and says] Abu Sulayman [Hafiz al-Asad], I want you release my son Mahmud 'Abd al-'Aziz and his companions.

[President al-Asad] They are with Abu 'Ammar. Has he not told you yet about them? [laughter]

[President al-Asad continues speech] To our brothers, the sons of the Palestinian Arab people, at home and abroad, I repeat: We will not rest in peace as long as the Al-Aqsa mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchur are in the grip of the unjust, as long as our beloved Jerusalem is groaning under the yoke of the usurper, as long as our precious Palestine suffers from the tyranny of the occupier invaders, as long as the homes of our kinfolk are demolished and their lands are confiscated by criminals from all parts of the world who exploit these lands and expel their owners and as long as the majority of our Palestinian Arab people are destitute and deprived of their inalienable national rights, rights acknowledged under the laws of heaven and earth.

We will not rest in peace until the injustice is removed, the aggression is crused and the territories and the rights are returned to their owners. We are confident that victory will be ours as long as we are ready to sacrifice and die, supported by our great Arab nation and the progressive forces throughout the world.

Brothers, there have been many developments since the 14th session of the PNC in the middle of January 1979. The great plot against our Arab homeland has emerged crystal clear. The situation became very serious when As-Sadat's regime betrayed the nation and left the ranks of Arab struggle for the imperialist-Zionist camp. He thus became their partner in the aggression against the Palestinian Arab people and the plotting against the central Arab issue. He became the ally of U.S. imperalism and Israel in shedding Arab blood and destroying the Arab future.

As the saying goes, not every bad thing is harmful. What has transpired from the plot so far has been beneficial in quickly exposing certain individuals and stands and unmasking certain faces. What was ambiguous has become clear and what has hidden has been exposed. Those who worked in the dark behind the backs of the Arab nation are now wallowing in the mud of treason. As for those agents who are still vacillating, their actions will expose their hidden intentions and they will be unmasked at the appropriate time.

We will not be deceived by ornamental peace. Action and stands are the real test. You will recall, perhaps, that the man who paid that treasonous visit to Jerusalem, signed the Camp David accords and the separate peace treaty, opened the doors of Egypt wide to Zionist political, information, cultural and economic invasion, threw himself on the doorsteps of Washington and Tel Aviv giving concession after concession to the enemies of the Arab nation; perhaps you will recall that this very man stood before your council during its 13th session in March 1977--the year of the treasonous visit--and hypocritically declared that the Palestine people should make their own decision on everything concerning their destiny and question and that no one else had the right to exercise any tutelege or to impose any opinion on the Palestinians. He stressed that he respected all the decisions stemming from the will of the Palestinian people, especially their decision to make the PLO their sole legitimate representative and defender of their rights and interests. This very man also declared on that occasion that the unanimous decision adopted at the Rabat summit conference was a final one and that there would be no going back on it. He said that he would not accept the reqlinquishment of a single inch of Palestinian national soil.

How do you explain this in light of the Camp David accords, for which he negotiated and which he signed, appointing himself a guardian of and a substitute for the Arab nation and the people of Palestine? How do you explain this in light of the Camp David accords, in which he reiterated what has been proposed by Begin and what the Zionist movement considers basic lines to solve the entire Arab-Israeli conflict in the absence of all the Arabs, including the Palestinians, and against the interests of all the Arabs? How do you explain this in light of the self-rule that was proposed by Begin and approved by As-Sadat--who said that this embodies the Palestinian Arab people's rights--also in the absence of the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation? How do you explain this in light of the unilateral peace treaty in which he detached himself from the overall Arab cause and history?

I recall this in order to point out that we now hear words that contradict the intentions and practices of those saying them, words only intended to conceal the real stands until the time comes when they will reveal and declare these stands.

We are now facing a state of affairs which plotters were trying to shroud with ambiguity. However, the shrouds were torn up and matters appeared in their real perspective; namely, U.S. imperialism is publicly working for the implementation of its scheme by imposing its hegemony over the Arab region--people, resources and strategic positions--aided by the ones it can attach to its scheme. U.S. imperialism is also seeking to establish military bases for its forces and to set up a military alliance loyal to it in the region.

It is regrettable to see that this terrible scheme has, to a certain extent, succeeded in Arabizing the struggle in the region and transferring it from a struggle between the Arab nation's rights and the Zionist falsehood into an Arab-Arab struggle. It has also succeeded in turning As-Sadat's regime into a guard for Israel's security and turning other Arab regimes into obedient tools that perform certain roles within the scheme and eventually serve the objectives of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism.

In order to render this scheme successful, it is required that the national and progressive forces in the Arab homeland be subjugated, Syria weakened and the Palestinian revolution liquidated. The Arab cause is required to move backward in order to be headed by the imperialist military alliance and so that the Arab nation will employ its territory, sky, resources and its sons' blood to defend the U.S. imperialist interests and what the U.S. secretary of state came to the region for and what he personally stressed in his statements on the tour.

Haig's visit to the area was not for the purpose of discussing the peace process, assisting us to regain our usurped rights or lifting the oppression imposed on all the displaced Arabs, especially the Palestinians. He did not come for all this. He came to make us prepare our armies, mobilize our sons and prepare ourselves to fight the Soviet Union on behalf of the United States and for the sake of its interests. They did not conceal this. They announced it before, during and after the tour. You may have heard more than I did in the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state. He came to the area to assert the warm relations between himself and the area's leaders, as he put it. His success in this respect was beyond expectations, as he himself said. He achieved success beyond all expectations. He came to the area to discuss with the officials the external threats to the area. Finally, he came to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

He clarified this in London when he said that the United States will give life to, awaken and reactivate the Camp David process. Therefore, he came to the region in the framework of paving the way to establish the pact to confront the USSR. Within this framework of the process of preparation, he came to define the role of some people in the Camp David process. This is what can be understood by the U.S. secretary of state's statement in London.

U.S. imperialism is trying to convince the sons of the region that priority must be given to its military pact because the greatest danger is that imaginary one suggested by Washington. It is trying to deceive the minds of the people in order to convince us that the source of danger is the USSR, the friendly state which supports our just cause and stands by our side in our struggle against the aggression being waged against our land and our people. You are fighting with the arms of the USSR. We all are fighting with the arms of the USSR. Israel is fighting you, all of us, with U.S. arms. The Golan is occupied by U.S. arms; the West Bank, Gaza and Palestine of 1948 are occupied by U.S. arms; Israel is planning to establish greater Israel by depending on U.S. arms. After all this, the U.S. secretary of state came to convince us that the danger is that coming from the USSR and that we should be fully alert against it.

The United States wants to make us forget the Zionist danger, the Zionist aggression and the Zionist occupation. It also wants us to forget the Zionist danger, the Zionist aggression and the Zionist occupation. [sentence as heard] It wants us to forget that this danger, aggression and occupation would not have continued, become rooted, remained for long and consequently led to explosive situations and disturbances in the Arab homeland had it not been for U.S. encouragement, backing and strong support.

It seems that the success of the U.S. imperialist scheme requires the offering of concessions not by the aggressor Israel, but by the Arab nation, particularly by Syria and the Palestinian Arab people, represented by the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. The concession required from Syria is that it abandon the Palestinian issue, stop supporting and struggling for its sake. In this respect we will not be blinded by deceptive information. It shall not blind us to this fact. Were it not for this, none of these difficulties would have faced Syria. There are no regional problems in Syria. Its only problem, which they want it to abandon, is in truth its problem, its cause, its Palestinian cause.

You might notice that now and then I tend to digress from what I have in front of me, give details and find other factors which bring me back to what is written. But it is a must that I stress the importance for the Arab masses not to be deceived. We are confident that they will not be deceived. There is no harm in repeating and stressing that the Arab masses must not be deceived by the deceptive information beating our ears. There are scores of agencies, hundreds of newspapers and scores of radio stations directed within one plan to play on our minds. Syria has no problems in Lebanon or elsewhere other than the stand which it has adopted and will continue to adopt in the future with stubbornness and firmness.

Syria will not support any peace [sulh] other than the Palestinian peace [sulh]. [applause] Syria will not support any peace [salam] other than the Palestinian peace [salam]. Syria wants Palestine as much as it wants the Golan. [applause]

A few years ago, I said in this place with a loud voice that we want Palestine before the Golan and that we want Sinai before the Golan and that after this, we want the Golan. This was before the signing of the Camp David agreements. Today, we are more determined, more insistant and more prepared to struggle and sacrifice and say again: We want Palestine first, Palestine first and the Golan second. [applause]

I do not say this out of courtesy or because a meter of Palestinian land is dearer to myself than a meter of the land of the Golan, for both meters of land are Arab land that are completely equal. I say this to stress for Israel first, for the United States second and for their little agents in the area that there shall be no peace but the genuine just peace which enables us to restore the land, pride and integrity. [applause]

Since 1973--this is a little issue I want to reveal to you, and your brothers on the committee know this because they have heard it from me perhaps more than once--and after the Sinai agreement, the signing of a similar agreement with Israel was offered to us. We refused it. We were offered--so it won't be said that we acted separately--to be given the necessary cover so that we and Jordan--naturally, the official Jordan--could sign a disengagement agreement. That meant that we and Jordan were to begin negotiations at the same time. I have letters about this subject. Again, we refused and said that we will not enter into any agreement of a political nature unless the PLO takes part in it at the same time. [applause]

In order to involve us and to deviate us from the path on which we march, they offered us several alternatives at the same time. They offered to sign an agreement with us without any negotiations. Once again, I say that your brothers on the committee are aware of this.

In 1974 we were offered a proposal to sign an agreement without negotiations. The proposal also said that Israel would withdraw from a part of the Golan without negotiations. We refused that, and you may be surprised why we refused this offer. We refused because the political plan then consisted of a group of cycles like agricultural cycles: an agreement in Sinai, an agreement in Syria and an agreement in Jordan, with the cycle continuing. With every cycle we offer concessions to Israel so that they may eventually attain the overall outcome, according to what they have planned. Of course we refused because if we had accepted that step, we would not have been able to say no to the others and we would not have been able to refuse the next steps in their plans. That was how they wanted to liquidate the Palestinian cause in isolation of the Palestinian people. So they tried through different methods.

What I told you is only one event or actually the outline of a plan which they drew up but which was foiled by Syria. There are other matters which I can talk about some other time.

When they were unable to deviate Syria from its straight course regarding the Palestinian cause because Syria cannot deviate from this course and cannot betray its cause, when they failed to do so, they drew up plans to create problems for Syria, naturally as a prologue for striking at and liquidating the Palestinian cause.

I repeat, particularly to the new U.S. administration, that the new U.S. directors have since the beginning been trying to intimidate us. They came with their swords brandished, with their intimidations and arrogance, with all the signs and features of this arrogance. However, just as they, or as their ancestors, erroneously understood the world's peoples, who had struggled for the sake of their rights and freedom, it seems that they are still proceeding on the same road. They will discover, if not already discovered, that they have once again made mistakes and that we in Syria, in Palestine and in the Arab nation are strong enough to regain our rights, dignity and land and to impose our will on every vicious occupier and aggressor. [applause; 1-minute poem on Palestine by unidentified male in the audience]

When As-Sadat went to Jerusalem and again after the Sinai agreement, he focused on the question of Syria's custodianship over the PLO. You recall this well, now, others are focusing on this matter. If we are stubborn for the sake of the Palestinian issue and when we refuse to regain a part of the Golan for the sake of the Palestinian issue, are we custodians of the PLO and the issue? If we give up Palestine and the people of Palestine, we are then not custodians. At any rate, please lift the custodianship of your brothers imposed on us here in Syria. [laughter] If we have to look at each other from the angle of custodianship, we can actually say that the PLO is the custodian and not vice versa. [applause] At any rate, I ask the others, if this means a custodianship over the PLO and the people of Palestine, to do something and be custodians in the same sense. I ask them to do exactly what Syria is doing and to practice the same custodianship Syria is practicing so that we become equal. Equality among brothers is a desired and just matter. Let us go back to the subject.

This is the solution. The concession which is requested from Syria is that it abandon the Palestinian issue and stop its support and struggle for it. The concession which is requested from the people of Palestine is that they give up their rights to return, to determine their future and to set up their independent state on the soil of their land. This is the solution and this is the justice in the views of imperialism, Zionism and their allies. Without these concessions the plotting on Syria and on the Palestinian issue will continue. Also, the plotting on fraternal Lebanon and the acts to introduce changes and to disintegrate it and to use it to strike at Syria and the Arab nation will continue.

Despite that, we still listen to and read words about the possible fruitfulness of the U.S. policy during the era of the new U.S. administration and about our expectation that it will side with right and justice. Where does this hope lie in a policy which is very hostile to the Arabs, to the extent that it has started walking overtly on the bandwagon of Israel's policy. Accordingly, the U.S. administration is compelled to seek Israel's permission for what it should or should not do and about the extent the U.S. administration is allowed to sell or not to sell to the Arabs.

I do not object to any of our Arab brothers wanting to build friendship with the United States. Everyone has his own viewpoint. It is not harmful if some of us manage to establish real friendship with the United States. After all, it is a major power. But the friendship that exists between the United States and certain Arab sides cannot be beneficial. The United States has no friends among the Arabs at all. No Arab can be a true friend of the United States.

I have previously told some of my brothers here that the United States does not have a U.S. policy in this area that is dissociated from Israel. What there is in this area is an Israeli policy implemented by the United States. Therefore, how can this be reconciled with the establishment of friendship between any of the Arabs and the United States? The United States wants the Arabs as followers, not friends. Whoever thinks or believes that he is the friend of the United States or that such friendship can exist is under an illusion.

What more can any Arab side do than what As-Sadat has done for the United States? As-Sadat has disowned everything--history, geography, values and customs. He disowned everything related to our Arab heritage. Yet, is As-Sadat now the friend of the United States? Certainly not. If were a friend, he would have at least stopped the daily attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese people in south Lebanon. But he is not a friend. He is an agent. [applause]

What more can those awaiting their role give than what As-Sadat has given to the United States and Israel? I do not think that they can do more than what As-Sadat has already done. Only agents and those hostile to the interests of the masses of this nation everywhere, from the Arab east to the Arab Maghreb, will follow the United States and do as it bids. We will not be deceived by any other explanation. As Brother Khalid al-Fahum said a short while ago: We are grown up and mature. We now understand what is harmful and what is not. Our path is clear. It is the path of right. It is the path of Palestine. It is relentless struggle which knows no hesitation, appeasement, compromise, defeatism or cowardice. Martyrdom, regardless of the sufferings and hardships, is our path to right and victory. [applause]

What can be more humiliating than a policy which has humbled its own designers and implementers? What is the sense of pursuing the policy of those who insist on humbling our nation and surrounding it with their bases and forces for the sake of their own selfish interests and the interests of Israel?

Brothers, in order to preserve Arab honor, liberate Arab territory and regain Arab rights, we have only one choice: to continue our firm struggle with complete seriousness and to guarantee the requirements of victory. Foremost of these requirements is Palestinian national unity, the strengthening of Arab steadfastness and the bolstering of its nucleus--the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

We are stressing Palestinian national unity because it is the basic demand of the masses of the Palestinian Arab people. If national unity is an essential matter for any people under normal circumstances, it is a pressing matter for the Palestinian people under the circumstances of the fateful struggle within the framework of the revolution. It is also a pan-Arab demand because it is a factor for Arab unity, for which we always struggle. As I told you before, Arab unity is the main issue and objective and the real remedy for all the ills of the Arab nation.

Brothers, the present may be full of complications and difficulties and the path to the cherished future may be frought with obstacles and pitfalls. But since when has the path of struggle been a bed of roses? It is the fate of our generation to fight, sacrifice, work, sweat and bleed for the sake of our Arab nation. It is our destiny, we the Syrians and you the sons of Palestine, to face the plot implemented by the enemies against our central issue--Palestine. We will continue to fight and sacrifice. We will not be weakened by difficulties or disheartened by dangers. Tribulations will only make us more determined and strengthen our faith in our ability to win the battle, achieve victory, and raise the banner of Palestine sky-high in Jerusalem. We will fight, backed by the Arab masses and nation everywhere. Let us continue the march together as brothers in Arabdom and comrades in arms until victory is achieved. Peace be upon you.

12 Apr Meeting

JN121744 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] will resume its meetings this evening. The PNC held an open session this morning and listened to a number of speeches by heads of delegations participating in the meetings.

Addressing the morning session, Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, asserted that the Palestinian issue is the central issue through which the fate of the Arab liberation movement can be decided. He said that the national movement is a stronghold and strong shield for the Palestinian revolution. He added that the Zahlah events have pointed out the intentions of the Phalangist Party, which is coordinating efforts with Israel to strike at the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Reiterating the Nationalist Movement's stands on the question of detente, Junblatt said: We will not accept any legality that represents an extension of sectarianism and racism. He said that Syria is a strategic, political and military depth to confront all the capitulationist schemes and support the Palestinian resistance and the Nationalist Movement.

Junblatt's speech was followed by the Indian Parliament speaker's speech. He said: I here repeat what Mrs Indira Gandhi said, to the effect that the Palestine issue is India's issue. He added that India supports the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in its struggle for liberating the occupied land.

Then Ibrahim Shukri, the head of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, spoke. He said: All of the Egyptian people's feelings are with Palestine--the issue and people--and our people understand that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the leader of their struggle to regain their rights and to set up their independent state.

Head of the Palestinian People's Inalienable Rights Committee (Sari) said: The international community attaches great importance to the struggle of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. (Sari) condemned Israel's practices in Jerusalem.

Addressing the PNC the Soviet Union's representative said: I am pleased to personally convey the greetings of the Soviet leadership and those of Comrade Leonid Brezhnev to you and to the Palestinian people as well as to the PLO under Comrade Yasir 'Arafat. The Soviet Union will continue its support for the Palestinian people's struggle against the Israeli aggressions and the Camp David accords. The Soviet Union will continue the struggle for the sake of achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

More on 12 Apr Meeting

JN121752 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 apr 81

[Excerpts] Damascus--The 15th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] began its work this morning under PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum. Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, attended the session.

'Awdah al-'Awdah, head of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front, delivered a speech in which he greeted on behalf of the Algerian people and government the Palestinian people and their revolution. He also extended the greetings of Algeria's people and government to our country's struggling masses and prudent leadership. He stressed that Algeria considers the Palestinian cause as an issue of destiny for the Arab nation. He voiced the need to unify the Palestinian revolution's factions on all levels.

The Jordanian delegation's speech expressed on behalf of the Jordanian people support for the Palestinian Arab people until victory. The speaker addressed greetings to the Palestinian revolution's martyrs as well as to the Palestinian revolution's struggle and the struggle of its steadfast strugglers inside and outside the occupied territory.

Dr Vassos Lissaridhis, leader of the Cypriot Socialist Party, delivered a speech in which he stressed that the Palestinian people's struggle consolidates the struggle of all the struggling oppressed peoples in the world. He added that such a struggle will neither be defeated nor stopped except by martyrdom or victory.

'Umar al-Hamidi, chairman of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, delivered a speech which he began by hailing the Palestinian Arab people's struggle. He reviewed the struggle of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress in this respect. He pointed out the seriousness of the U.S. imperialist, Zionist and reactionary offensive launched against our Arab nation, stressing that the unity of ranks as represented by Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in the face of these plots is evidence of the failure of these plots. He concluded his speech by greeting the Arab and world liberation and struggle movement, stressing the inevitability of its victory.

'Ali Sha'i' Hadi then delivered the PDRY delegation's speech. He stressed the cohesion between the PDRY and the Palestinian revolution. He declared the PDRY's support for the Palestinian people's struggle inside and outside the occupied territories. He also condemned the U.S. imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots that are aimed at harming our nation's steadfastness and liquidating its central issue of Palestine.

The Yugoslav Federal Assembly vice president delivered the Yugoslav delegation's speech. He praised the Palestinian Arab people's struggle, stressing the Yugoslav people's support for the Palestinian people. He said that there can be no solution to the Palestinian issue without the PLO, considering it the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The deputy chairman of the Moroccan Society for the Support of the Palestinian Struggle delivered the society's speech. He hailed the Palestinian Arab people's struggle inside and outside the occupied territories, stressing the Palestinian people's inevitable victory in their just struggle to restore their legitimate rights.

13 Apr Meeting

JN130941 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Damascus--The Palestine National Council [PNC] will resume its meetings in Damascus at 0900 this morning. The council held a meeting at 2000 yesterday under Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, attended the meeting.

The PNC heard the PLO Executive Committee's political report, which reviewed the general developments and events in the region as well as the stands, accomplishments, and political, social and military activities of the PLO during the period between the 14th and the 15th sessions of the PNC. The report was read by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. He said that this period was characterized by important international events represented by an escalation of brutal Zionist-imperialist onslaughts in the world, particularly the Middle East. Imperialism has fabricated wars and pressures to establish its military presence and to return to the old policy of axes. The part of this policy affecting the PLO was a big one as manifested by intensified imperialist plotting through the Camp David accords and the effort to establish alliances and military bases in the region within the framework of the U.S.-Zionist attacks on the region.

Qaddumi said that President Reagan's administration is proceeding with this U.S. strategy through insolent political methods. Reagan started this by attacking the PLO and insisting on continuation of the capitulatory agreement between Israel and Egypt, and considered this the green light for action against Syria and the PLO. The aim of Alexander Haig's visit to the region was to establish an Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian-Turkish military alliance with Arab reaction against progressive forces in the region. He asserted that all these attempts are doomed to failure, thanks to our masses' steadfastness and confrontation of all conspiracies.

Qaddumi said that in 1980 the PLO carried out 264 operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, killing or wounding 154 Israelis. The PLO managed to do this despite the oppressive and suppressive measures practiced by the enemy and despite the policy of settlement, deportation and coersion pursued by the enemy against the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab land.

Qaddumi asserted that Syria is the strong shield of the PLO and the stronghold which firmly and proudly confronts all suspect imperialist and Zionist attempts to harm its steadfastness. He said: We are Syria's partners in the march and destiny. Coordination between us is on the highest levels and in all fields.

Qaddumi praised the Damascus resolutions of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, saying that the PLO is working to consolidate and support the front. He pointed out that the dialogue with Jordan has reached a deadlock and that all the dialogue with Jordan has not been worthwhile and has not achieved any result. He said that the work within the Palestinian-Jordanian Committee is mere participation in an economic committee which is of no political nature. Its task is to consolidate the solidarity of our kinfolk in the occupied land in implementation of the Arab summit resolutions.

On the situation in Lebanon the political report asserts that the PLO is with the Lebanese people and with their unity, Arabism and independence--people and land. It holds the isolationist side responsible for exploding the security situation in Lebanon as part of an imperialist-Zionist design to deal a blow to the PLO. The report refers to the Palestinian-Lebanese National Movement alliance, manifested by the joint forces and the joint confrontation of Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon and Zionist agents inside Lebanon.

Qaddumi praised the PLO's relations with the socialist bloc countries, particularly the Soviet Union, and the nonaligned countries. The report hails Syria, saying that it is the impregnable rock on which U.S. imperialism will founder and that the rifle alone is the basis and pillar of Palestinian revolutionary actions.

Palestine Broadcast on Session

JN121849 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Palestine broadcast: "Ideas and Stands" program]

[Text] Brother strugglers: The Palestine National Council [PNC] will continue its meetings in Damascus amid Arab and Palestinian interest in this session, which comes at a time when the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught has been stepped up against the Arab nation and its central issue: the Palestine issue. The current PNC session also acquires special importance at this stage through which the Palestinian issue and the Arab nation are passing. The plot's partners in Lebanon, represented by the Camp David partners and the Phalangist gangs, are stepping up their vicious onslaught on the Palestinian revolution and Syria and also on the fraternal Lebanese people and their national unity.

The 15th PNC session therefore is asked today more than at any time before to emerge with crucial resolutions embodying the unity of the factions of the Palestinian revolution as well as the hopes and aspirations of our Arab nation in confronting the most vicious plot to which our fateful issue is being subjected. The PNC session is also asked to reiterate its rejection of the capitulationist solutions and schemes that are being proposed under several various methods. These schemes are, however, geared against the Arab nation and the Palestinian issue, because these solutions and schemes are usually made by quarters well known for their hostility to the Arab nation and their treason against the Palestinian issue.

The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH cites Palestinian sources inside the conference as saying that the current conference is one of the Palestinian national unity. The sources added that the conference will adopt positive and important resolutions on the level of the Palestinian struggle that are bound to embody Palestinian national unity and intesify its strength. The same sources pointed out that the conference will adopt extremely important resolutions at the end of its meetings. The resolutions will be related to the confrontation of the capitulationist settlement. The conference will also adopt military resolutions on the minimum unity of Palestinian military actions. This is in addition to resolutions that will intensify the militant cohesion between the Palestinian revolution on the one hand, and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Jordanian nationalist movement on the other.

Also, the participating of a high-level delegation representing the Egyptian nationalist movement in the conference, despite As-Sadat's measures on banning some nationalist figures from participating, constitutes a big sign of the cohesion with the Palestinian revolution and insistence on overthrowing the defeatist regimes.

LIBYA REPORTEDLY INTERFERING WITH PRC ELECTIONS

LD130703 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 11-17 Apr 81 p 11

[Text] Leading officials in the Fatah movement accuse Libya of spending large sums of money in order to influence the coming elections to the Palestinian National Council [PNC] in an attempt to interfere in the selection of the new members of the PLO Executive Committee, whose numbers will increase from 15 to 21 members. Relations between Libya and Fatah have once again deteriorated because of such interference.

KUWAIT

PAPERS VIEW SECRETARY HAIG'S MIDEAST TOUR

LD101414 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Apr (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti editorials Friday: AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: On outcome of a visit to the Middle East by the U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig:

"We can not be decieved to believe that the U.S. would change its Middle East policy but, we assume that Haig has realized following his visit to the region that it is impossible to place the Arabs and Israel in one trench whatever a name or form this trench would claim.

"The Americans have succeeded in pulling the Egyptian president to the Israeli trench, thus depriving Egypt temporarily of its Arab identity. But the Americans should have by now realised that they could not attract any more Arabs without risking their interests.

"The Arabs can not treat the Soviet dangers with the same importance they attach to the Israeli threat. The Americans through their stupid policy are bringing the Soviet threat closer to our region.

AL-WATAN on the same subject:

"The American press, specially the New York TIMES which enjoys close ties with the State Department spoke openly about objectives of Haig's Middle East tour. These papers ascertained that Haig guaranteed the protection of the United States for Israel and the Camp David agreements during his visits to Egypt and Israel. The American press claims that every time the Arabs drop 'the holy war' slogan against Israel, their affiliations to the United States become more forthcoming.

"We wonder what is the nature of these links which the American press is advocating. It is 'overt reconciliation with Israel' which the American press alleges will facilitate the task of Reagan's sale of arms to the Arabs. The press is asking the Congress to 'make the negotiations with Israel legitimate' and to urge the Arabs to render more assistance to the poor nations programme from their oil surplus revenues. The press believes that Israel's fear of diplomatic isolation might not motivate her to negotiate leniently, not even with the most moderate Arab states.

"These silly pretexts are in reality a cover up for the American policy which seeks to 'embezzle' the Arabs in all fields for the benefit of the Israeli-American pact. We are confident that such American policy cannot decieve the Arab nation. It was confirmed that Haig promised to supply Isarel with modern planes economic and security 'compensations' including classified information on the Middle East gathered by (?their satellites).

"Towards the end of Haig's Middle East tour, all the Arabs must beware the military pacts diplomacy which Haig tried to circulate in the region on the pretext that Soviet threat to the Arabs should be given priority over the Israeli occupation this is open American hypocrisy".

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTER DENIES 'ADJUSTMENT' TO AWACS AGREEMENT

LD110930 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0525 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Apr (SPA)--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, has denied the fabricated reports which have been circulating after the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to Saudi Arabia which say a notable adjustment has been made to the agreement on weapons and AWACS aircraft for Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with 'UKAZ published today, his royal highness says the tendentious rumors being circulated by hostile information media on this subject are not more than fiction and a fabrication. His royal highness stresses that the arms deal which Saudi Arabia concluded with the United States, which includes the purchase of AWACS aircraft and other equipment, is progressing rapidly and is on its normal course.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stresses there are no conditions in return for these weapons and aircraft, and tht Saudi youth are fully qualified to carry out their responsibilities and are capable, by continuous competent training, to operate this equipment and aircraft responsibly. His royal highness the minister of defense and aviation points out that Saudi Arabia intends to proceed with its expanded programs aimed at the development and improvement of the standard of duties among members of the armed forces by means of training in the use of all weapons and equipment.

EDITORIALS VIEW RESULTS OF SECRETARY HAIG'S TRIP

ARAB NEWS Comment

GF111032 Jidda ARAB NEWS in English 10 Apr 81 p 6

[Editorial: "The Arab Message"]

[Text] It is believed that American Secretary of State Alexander Haig has ended his tour with the impression that the Arab-Israeli conflict was the most pressing issue facing the region. If such indications are true, notably after hearing the viewpoints of Saudi Arabia, his visit would have been worthwhile.

It is hoped also that his talks here would reshuffle policy priorities in favor of tackling the most serious issue which concerns the Arab world, that is the continued occupation of their territories, the occupation of the holy city of Jerusalem, and the continuous building of Jewish settlements on the West Bank in addition to a host of other provocations.

While such dangers have been threatening the peace and stability of the region, U.S. Governments had been excessively obsessed with their Rapid Deployment Force and the security of Israel. This sounds disturbingly close to what the Soviet Union did in Afghanistan when the sitatuion there did not appeal to Moscow.

Perhaps Haig will be able to change the picture, or some of it, by persuading his colleagues in the U.S. government to appreciate the gravity of Israel's threat in the Middle East--a threat continously nourished by the massive American support to the enemy of America's friends--the Arabs.

All what the Arabs want is to be left in peace to develop and to build their armies for the defense of their people and countries and to bring justice to the Palestinian people who were uprooted from their homeland and now living as refugees in exile for the last 33 years.

Hopefully, Haig's visit would have provided him a clear impression--a message of peace, cooperation and friendship.

'UKAZ Editorial

LD101458 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 10 apr (SPA)--The editorial in today's 'UKAZ newspaper expressed optimism on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Alexander Haig's recently concluded visit to the kingdom and three other Middle East nations and hoped that it would enable the Reagan administration to give top priority to a solution of Arab-Israel conflict.

'UKAZ said Saudi leaders with their subjective, analytical and far-sighted vision were successful in convincing Mr. Haig to reorganise the course of its priorities for future Reagan foreign policy by treating the Palestinian problem as most important for ensuring a peaceful solution of this problem.

The newspaper said Israel's repeated attacks on Lebanon and its denial of legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by occupying Arab lands and Jerusalem should be treated as a major threat to the security of the region.

Mr. Haig's press conference clearly indicated that the Saudi leadership was able to explain to Mr. Haig the real causes of threats in the area, the paper added.

It said Saudi leaders provided comprehensive analysis for Mr. Haig by pointing out that the actual danger to the area came from Israel. If the U.S. administration does not give serious thought to solving Israel's aggressive actions in the area, it would give a solid chance to Soviet Union to fish in troubled waters.

PDRY

PAPER COMMENTS ON HAIG'S 'SINISTER' MIDEAST TOUR

LD111547 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The newspaper ATH-THAWRI, organ of the Central Committee of the YSP, has stressed that the statements of the American Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other American officials, who accompanied him on his sinister visit to the Middle East, confirmed that they explain clearly and with neither [word indistinct] nor ambiguity the aims of the aggressive American policy toward the Arab region. This policy constitutes a serious threat to the security and interests of our Arab peoples who offered numerous columns of righteous martyrs for their national independence and to achieve their legitimate aspirations to liberation, social progress and unity.

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. MIDEAST POLICY PRIORITIES

NC122119 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 81

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "The Urgent U.S. Mission in the Middle East"]

[Text] With the conclusion of the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in the Middle East and Western Europe, it can be said that the U.S. policy in this region has passed the stage of probing. Although the views and ideas which Haig formed as a result of his tour have not yet been completely announced, and although these views and ideas will enter the U.S. political kitchen with all its interacting trends and forces to approve some of them, drop others and amend others, yet, despite all this, we can tell some of the signs of the anticipated trend of U.S. policy in the Middle East, and consequently to the anticipated developments in the region in the coming stage.

The U.S. secretary of state came to the Middle East amid speculations and proofs clearly indicating that the new U.S. foreign policy prefers concentrating on checking the Soviet advance toward the Middle East and, consequently, approaching a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement within this context. This is to say that the outstanding problems between Israel and the Arabs should be settled in favor of the more comprehensive confrontation with the Soviet danger.

However, informed sources in the region and Europe assert that the U.S. secretary of state is returning to his country after having ascertained that all the Arab states he visited insist that the general international strategic confrontation in the Middle East must not annul the private contradiction still existing between the Arabs and Israel and must not be at the expense of Arab rights, which must be retrieved.

In Western Europe, Haig saw and heard varying but definite support for the Arab point of view because, by virtue of the sensitivity of the security of their countries to the developments in the Middle East, the European politicians believe that the security of this region cannot be guaranteed if the local parties themselves do not convincingly contribute to it. This could only happen after the comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, mainly the Palestinian problem.

This is perhaps what prompted the U.S. secretary to say that the U.S. Middle East policy does not speak about priorities and that it considers that guaranteeing security in the Middle East and the process of the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict should proceed together.

Therefore, it appears that there is a quasi-unanimity on the need to speed up the resumption of the efforts to establish peace between the Arabs and Israel. But how? The difference in the views of the concerned parties begins here.

The kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Jordan believe that the Camp David agreements are not enough and that there is no escape from a new method to tackle the Palestinian question. Egypt favors the continuation of the process which began in Camp David, whereas the Europeans are trying to reconcile the Egyptian view with the other view by giving a role to the PLO in the next stage starting with the main features of the Camp David agreements. The Americans, as they say, leave the door open for any alternatives or formulas supplementing the Camp David agreements, while considering these agreements the best available foundation to build on so far. Here, the Americans find fault with the Saudis, the Jordanians and the Europeans, who have not yet submitted any suitable alternatives to the Camp David agreements. This was one of the most important points on which the press statements concentrated after the discussions of U.S. Secretary of State Haig in Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Despite the existence of these differences there is a need to break the current deadlock in the Middle East peace efforts. The well-informed diplomatic sources, particularly in Western Europe, point out that reality will make it inevitable to surmount these differences silently. Consequently, the parties having reservations on the Camp David process will prefer to wait so as to see if it is possible for this process to proceed to the end. If this happens--if an agreement is reached on the establishment of Palestinian autonomy or even if the discussions aimed at reaching this goal are resumed--then the reservations by these parties will drop successively and they will join the peace process to strengthen it and guarantee its aspired end.

Therefore, the most likely thing to happen is that the United States will intensify its efforts to ensure the early resumption of the Palestinian autonomy discussions between Israel and Egypt with its own participation in a manner that would guarantee their success or the achievement of fundamental progress at least in the foreseeable future. This speculation takes into consideration the need for waiting until the end of the Israeli general elections in July. Thus, the agreement on the establishment of palestinian autonomy becomes the urgent task in the Middle East. This is the task which Egypt frankly demands and which others want accomplished while the Saudis and Jordanians remain silent.

GHALI RETURNS FROM GENEVA, MAKES STATEMENT

NC111937 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo tonight from Geneva after leading the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the International Conference on Aid to African Refugees.

Dr Ghali said that he had talks with UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim, who attended the conference, outlining to him Egypt's stand regarding the UN emergency force and Egypt's interest that the United Nations should have a role in Sinai. Dr Ghali said that he stressed to Waldheim that should the United Nations fail to perform this mission Egypt would then seek a multinational force. Dr Ghali said that Waldheim expressed understanding of the Egyptian stand and promised to exert all efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East.

Dr Ghali added that he also had talks with several foreign ministers who attended the conference, outlining Egypt's peace efforts.

Dr Ghali said that Libya's nonparticipation in the International Conference on Aid to African Refugees has confirmed Libya's isolation from the international community. He affirmed that there is a general condemnation by the international community of Libya's behavior.

He said that the conference succeeded in obtaining assistance from friendly states amounting to about $500 million for African refugees. He added that the conference presented an opportunity to outline Egypt's role of supporting various issues regarding African states.

On the developments in Lebanon, Dr Ghali reaffirmed Egypt's stand of adhering to Lebanon's territorial integrity and independence and condemning any attempt to partition Lebanon as well as any attempt of foreign interference.

Dr Ghali went to Geneva last Tuesday as head of the Egyptian delegation to the conference.

SPOKESMAN DENIES DISPATCH OF SOLDIERS TO SUDAN

NC122234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)--The official spokesman of the Defense Ministry has unequivocally denied a Libyan radio report about Egypt dispatching 90,000 soldiers to Sudan in order to launch an attack on Chad. In a statement in Monday's edition of AL-JUMHURIYAH, the spokesman emphasized that this report is a mere allegation.

BA'TH PARTY SENDS MESSAGE TO PNC SESSION

JN121428 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)--The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has stressed its determination to continue its support for the forces of the Palestinian revolution in and outside the occupied territories under the PLO to consolidate its independence and free will. This was contained in a message the Ba'th Party National Command sent to the speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], which is now in session.

The message added that the convening of the PNC is an opportunity which the Ba'th Party and the Iraqi revolution seize to reiterate their constant and principled support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab masses, support proceeding from the Ba'th Party's deep-rooted belief that the Palestinian cause is a central cause of the struggle of the party and that of the Arab masses.

The Ba'th Party's National Command wishes the 15th PNC session success so that it may achieve results that will strengthen the Palestinian people's struggle and effectively contribute to increasing the confrontation of enemy schemes and conspiracies against the Palestinian cause and the Arab liberation movement.

The statement adds: In view of the delicate circumstances through which Arab militant causes are passing, the PNC is placed before bigger responsibilities and tasks which broaden the framework of confrontation of the more serious and more intricate schemes of aggression and conspiracies and attempts to circumvent and contain the Palestinian resistance and Arab revolutionary forces.

The statement adds: The Palestinian masses are facing the harshest forms of fascist Zionist terrorism inside the occupied territories, and the resistance forces are courageously confronting Zionist military onslaughts while agent gangs and forces of apostasy are exceeding their bounds in their attempts to disrupt the Arab arena, attempts that are part of a concerted effort to abort the Palestinian revolutionary movement at this stage, to impose tutelage on it and to deprive it of its free will.

The Ba'th Party's National Command explained that these attempts have as their objective the use of the Palestinian cause as a bargaining counter in the subsequent capitulatory settlements and personal gains. The command reiterated that these feverish attempts are in harmony with those attempts which are aimed at engaging Iraq with issues other than its pan-Arab issues and are also in harmony with the Iranian insistence on proceeding with the war it is losing against the principles of good-neighbor relations and nonintervention in domestic affairs and against the Iranian people's interests and their relations with the Arab nation.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 10-12 APR

Communique No 302

JN101652 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1621 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted grave losses in life and equipment on the Iranian regime's forces during the last 24 hours. Communique No 302 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that the Iranian forces sustained losses of 60 dead, 2 helicopters, 1 infantry position, 3 armored personnel carriers, 7 guns, 5 vehicles, 2 observation posts, 2 excavators, 1 tank and 3 stockpiles of hardware. The following is the text of Communique No 302:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is the outcome of our armed forces' activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. Our units dealt severe blows to the concentration, forcing it to retreat after sustaining 21 dead. Our units also destroyed two guns and one observation post in the same area.
B. Our units pounded enemy personnel and emplacements in the Gilan-e Gharb area, killing 18 and destroying 1 infantry position. An enemy helicopter was downed when it tried to approach our positions in the same area.
C. Three were killed and one gun and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Sumar area.
D. Two guns and two vehicles were destroyed and one serviceable gun was discovered in the Dezful area. The gun had been left by the enemy during a previous battle. Our units also shot down an enemy helicopter when it tried to approach our positions in the same area.
E. Six were killed and one armored personnel carrier was destroyed in the Shush area.
F. Six were killed and one tank, one gun, one vehicle, one excavator and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
G. One was killed and one excavator was destroyed in the Ahvaz area.

H. Five were killed and two armored personnel carriers, two vehicles and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Abadan area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 60 dead, 1 infantry position, 1 tank, 3 armored troop carriers, 7 guns of various calibers, 5 vehicles, 2 excavators, 2 observation posts, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 2 helicopters.

II. It has been established that enemy losses as a result of our units' activities on 5, 6, 7 and 8 April were, in addition to what was announced at that time, 41 dead and 2 guns, 1 vehicle and 1 stockpile of hardware in the Iranian region opposite Panjwin. There were nine dead and two guns and four vehicles in the Nowsud area.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 20 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two presonnel carriers, four vehicles and one gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 April 1981

Communique No 303

JN111629 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)--During the last 24 hours the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted 88 dead on the Persian enemy. Communique No 303 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that other known enemy losses were 4 infantry positions, 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 7 field guns of various calibers, 17 vehicles, 2 rocket launchers, 2 observation posts and 5 ammunition stockpiles. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued to pound the enemy in the operations sectors yesterday evening and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our units pounded enemy positions and troops in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 16 and destroying 4 infantry positions and 2 field guns.
B. One was killed and one field gun and seven vehicles, one of which was carrying troops, were destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Our units strongly pounded with various weapons enemy concentrations and positions in the Dezful region, killing 37 and destroying 1 field gun, 4 vehicles and 2 rocket launchers.
D. Two armored personnel carriers and one field gun were destroyed in the Shush region.

E. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region and was hit and forced to flee by our forces. Left behind were 10 dead. One vehicle was also destroyed in the same region.
F. Our units pounded enemy troop concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 24 and destroying 1 tank, 2 field guns, 5 vehicles--1 of which was carrying ammunition--2 observation posts and 5 ammunition stockpiles.

Thus, total know enemy losses amount to 88 dead, 4 infantry positions, 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 7 field guns of various calibers, 17 vehicles, 2 rocket launchers, 2 observation posts and 5 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Three vehicles and one mortar were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 April 1981

Communique No 304

JN121714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)--Iraqi planes have carried out several raids on concentrations of the Iranian forces' artillery and armored vehicles in the areas of Mimak and Dezful, scoring direct hits. Communique No 304 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that the Iranian enemy's losses during the last 24 hours were 24 dead, 3 guns, 1 vehicle, 4 excavators [shaflat], 1 bulldozer [as received], 1 observation post and 2 stockpiles of hardware. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today, attaining the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One gun was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
B. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
C. Five were killed and one observation post was destroyed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. One vehicle has destroyed in the Mehran area.
E. One gun and one excavator were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
F. Five were killed in the Ahvaz area.
G. Our units scored direct and effective hits on enemy military targets in Abadan last night, killing 11 Iranians and destroying 1 gun, 3 excavators, 1 bulldozer and 2 stockpiles of hardware.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 24 dead, 3 guns, 1 vehicle, 4 excavators, 1 bulldozer, 1 observation post and 2 stockpiles of hardware.

II. Our air force fighter planes raided military targets today as follows:

A. Four planes raided a concentration of enemy artillery and armored vehicles in the Mimak area opposite our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.
B. Our planes raided a concentration of enemy armor and vehicles in the Dezful area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

III. It has been established that the enemy's losses on 7 April in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area were 14 dead in addition to those announced at that time.

IV. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Nine martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One troop carrier and two vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 April 1981

ANTI-SYRIA RADIO CLAIMS SYRIANS SENT TO AID IRAN

JN102115 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] Voice of Arab Syria has learned that Hafiz al-Asad authorities have dispatched 2,800 elements to Iran to assist the Persian enemy's aggression against fraternal Iraq. These elements were trained by Nayif Hawatimah. The radio station also learned that these include 1,600 defense squads elements. The rest are Hawatimah's elements.

Hafiz al-Asad authorities are also sending trucks loaded with foodstuffs and medicine from the port of Latakia to Iran, in addition to night air shipments. These authorities are forcing truck drivers to transport these commodites. Fuel trucks accompany these trucks to supply them with their fuel needs.

ECONOMIC, TRADE COOPERATION WITH JORDAN BOLSTERED

JN121442 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)--Jordan and Iraq signed here today the minutes of the meetings of the joint committee for technical, trade and economic cooperation. Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, signed the minutes for Iraq and Walid 'Asfur, minister of trade and industry, signed the [illegible] for Jordan.

The minutes provide for bolstering the economic and trade relations between the two countries in the fields of trade, industry and transport. They also provide for the exchange of technical and agricultural know-how and the setting up of joint ventures in the industrial field and transport on the service of the two countries' joint pan-Arab interests.

In a speech after the signing ceremony Hasan 'Ali said that the committee's meetings have been fruitful and positive, during which the two sides exerted strenuous efforts to attain an effective formula to increase the economic cooperation between the two countries. He stressed the importance of the exchange of visits on the technical and economic levels. He stressed the need to promote the joint economic base between the two countries.

In a reply speech Walid 'Asfur praised the two sides' efforts to attain this objective, which constitutes a step along the road that was charted by President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn to achieve the pan-Arab objectives.

AL-QASIM INTERVIEWED ON TOPICS OF HAIG TALKS

GF121938 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Apr 81 p 11

[Marian Hawk interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in Amman "a few hours after his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig"]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you assess U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's recent visit to Jordan?

[Answer] We always feel that it is a good opportunity to exchange views and ideas with all the parties capable of influencing the Middle East's security and stability. Haig's visit was an opportunity to reaffirm to him Jordan's consistent stand on a just and lasting peace in the area, a stand based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, foremost among which is their right to self-determination under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We explained to Haig once again the need to consider the PLO a party to negotiations aimed at establishing peace in the region.

[Question] Did Jordan put forward specific proposals to the Americans for recognizing the PLO?

[Answer] I am sure that when the new administration in the United States reviews the conditions and circumstances of the Palestinian people and their feelings of insecurity and instability it will then realize that this people should be--represented by the PLO--a partner to any peace formula proposed for the Middle East. We feel that the PLO should shoulder the responsibility and assume its natural role in the decision to establish the just and lasting peace, which all parties desire and are seeking to achieve.

Numerous attempts have been made in the past to find a peaceful settlement in the area. But what has been achieved in the past 2 years did not succeed in achieving the minimum expectations from such a settlement. The issue of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Jerusalem question are much more important for peace than the Sinai desert.

[Question] Do you have the impression that President Reagan's administration has formulated a policy for the Middle East?

[Answer] All the officials of the Reagan administration are still in the stage of assessment, hence the great importance of Haig's tour, for all the parties concerned.

[Question] The Carter administration had refused to recognize the PLO unless the PLO recognized "Israel's right to exist" and accepted Security Council Resolution 242. Do you feel that the Reagan administration has the same stand on the PLO?

[Answer] It is really impractical to ask the PLO to recognize Resolution 242. The resolution views the Palestinian question merely as a refugee problem and ignores the Palestinians' inalienable and legitimate right to repatriation and self-determination and to an independent state in Palestine. I would like to add that from the Jordanian view the resolution was intended to deal with the results of the Israeli aggression against the Arabs in 1967--when the PLO was not yet internationally recognized as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. This recognition came later, and specifically after the Rabat 1974 summit conference. Despite all attempts to persuade Israel to withdraw completely from the territory it occupied in 1967, it still refuses to accede to such attempts. From that date until 1974 the situation revolved in a vicious circle. How can we then ask the PLO to accept a resolution that has not yet been implemented? Any such attempt will introduce a new difficulty to the already complex problem of the Middle East.

[Question] Did you and Haig discuss the military situation and plans pertaining to the region's security?

[Answer] We informed the U.S. secretary of state that the real danger, whose consequences the Arab nation fears, is the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and Israel's daily actions against Arab citizens in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the occupied Syrian heights. Therefore we believe that the area's stability is subject to the establishment of a comprehensive and lasting peace.

[Question] Did Haig discuss the so-called "Jordanian option?"

[Answer] The so-called "Jordanian option" is in fact none other than the old Yigal Allon plan that was proposed twice: in 1969 and in 1972. It is being proposed nowadays by Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, but in a different form so that it will be more palatable. The revival of this proposal is no more than an attempt by Peres to appear more practical than Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

[Question] What were the issues discussed during the unscheduled meeting between King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, Minister for Occupied Territories Hasan Ibrahim and yourself on one side and the American delegation on the other?

[Answer] Our talks primarily centered on bilateral economic relations, particularly U.S. aid and training programs. The talks also once again dealt with the burden caused by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to the suffering of West Bank citizens. We also raised the issue of the daily Israeli aggression in the form of settlements that are established and expanded on expropriated Arab lands, whose owners are the direct victims of this aggression.

COMMENTARY REACTS TO AL-ASAD'S PNC SPEECH

JN121833 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Station commentary: "Who Turned the Arab-Israeli Conflict Into an Arab Conflict?"]

[Excerpts] In his speech to the Palestine National Council, which opened in Damascus yesterday, President al-Asad said that were it not for Syria's adherence to the Palestinian issue and its struggle in this respect, no difficulties would have faced Syria. He said that there are no regional problems in Syria. He said that Syria's only problem, which they want Syria to abandon, is its real problem: the Palestinian issue.

We wish this talk about apply to the practices of the Syrian regime. However, all the people understand that the difficulties faced by Syria in Syria itself and in Lebanon are created by the Syrian regime itself, because it imagined things and politicized them. It dealt with prophecies, not with facts and realities. The tense situation inside Syria has nothing to do with the Palestinian issue. Arab Syria has always understood how to deal with the Palestinian issue based on a clear pan-Arab stand. But the regime which chose to establish a sectarian factional rule based on hegemony, enriching its agents and having a minority dominate the majority, wants to hide the facts of its divorce from the Syrian people and their stands and ambitions by linking the Palestinian issue and the tragedies the regime created inside Syria and in the Lebanese arena. The outbiddings on the Palestinian issue cannot hide the stands which lead nowhere but drag the Palestinian issue and people into the mazes of Arab conflicts and the bitter conflict in the Syrian arena.

In his speech, President al-Asad said that it is painful to see that the horrifying conspiratorial scheme has succeeded in Arabizing the conflict in the region and turning it from Arab rights versus Zionist injustice into an Arab conflict. We accept this reasoning. But what are the tools that put themselves in the service of this terrible conspiratorial scheme? Accusing fingers point at the role of the Syrian regime in Arabizing the conflict, because the Syrian regime is the only regime involved in an Arab conflict in the Lebanese arena. We have never witnessed a Syrian-Israeli conflict, either in occupied Golan or in southern Lebanon.

VOL REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN ZAHLAH, BEIRUT 12 APR

NC121318 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] The Syrians have worsened the situation along the axes of the Zahlah hills, which have been under continuous heavy shelling since this morning from Syrian artillery and rocket launchers. The heavy shelling has been directed at the area of 'Aramta and the surrounding hills. Qa' ar-Rim is coming under intermittent heavy shelling, and fierce fighting is going on. The residents are heroically resisting the attacks of the Syrian special forces. Last night the Syrian attacks on the northeastern heights of the city were characterized by great violence and a large number of weapons and vehicles as well as infantry concentrations of special forces along the axes of 'Aramta Fortress, Niha, Jabal al-Qal'ah and Dahr al-Mughur. Last night Qa' ar-Rim was the target of a violent attack that was proceded by heavy artillery and rocket fire.

Zahlah is now the target of heavy sniper fire. The sound of antiaircraft fire can also be heard. The shooting has led to the wounding of a number of people, and it is impossible to move about to secure one's needs.

Red Cross vehicles entered Zahlah today. They transported some of the casualties to Beirut hospitals.

In Beirut and its southern suburb, the security situation deteriorated on the Al-Hadath axis, particularly in the Saint Terese area, where at 1315 today the Syrians directed heavy weapons and machinegun fire at residential quarters, and particularly at the Lebanese Army positions in the area. The sound of explosions and bursts of gunfire was heard on the At-Tayyunah-Galerie Sim'an axis at noon today.

Later Report: Zahlah Calm

NC121554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] A state of cautious calm has been prevailing in Zahlah and its surrounding hills since noon today. Syrian sniper fire is continuing against the city's residential quarters in an effort to paralyze every movement and manifestation of life in the city. The Syrian sniper fire was mainly concentrated in the axes of Al-mu'allaqah, Al-Karak, the industrial city and surrounding heights.

The Syrian cease-fire violations continued in Beirut and its suburb. Armed clashes took place a short while ago on the axes of Al-Hadath, At-Tayyunah, and Ash-Sihyah. The Syrians are using heavy weapons, RGP, and tank guns in these clashes. In particular, the Syrian shelling is directed at the Lebanese Army positions.

ADF ISSUES STATEMENT ON BEIRUT, ZAHLAH INCIDENTS

NC101942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 91

[10 April statement by responsible source in the Arab Deterrent Forces Command regarding the security situation in Lebanon--read by announcer]

[Text] With regard to Beirut, the security situation has maintained its relative calm. Very slight violations of the cease-fire occurred but were promptly tackled; most of the axes witnessed slight traffic all day long.

Regarding Zahlah, the situation remained relatively calm inside the city. However, the ridges around the city were subjected to shelling from the west, forcing the ADF to return the fire.

Between 1400-1530 today, the town of Shtawrah came under intensive and concentrated 155-mm artillery fire which caused a halt in traffic, the closure of shops and a wave of fear and worry. The ADF did not return the fire in implementation of the orders given them.

BUTRUS DISCUSSES SITUATION WITH UN OFFICIALS

NC101616 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] In the domain of diplomatic activity, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus received at 0930 today Brian Urquhart, UN under secretary general for political affairs, who was accompanied by (Mr Iqbal Akhung) and (Mr Samir Sanbar), director of the UN Information Office for Lebanon and the Middle East. Lebanese chief UN Delegate Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni attended this meeting.

At the 90-munute meeting a general assessment was made of the results of the official contacts and of the political moves which were made by Mr Urquhart in Lebanon.

Mr Urquhart has headed for An-Naqurah, where he will meet with the commander and senior officers of the UNIFIL forces operating in the south. A spokesman for the UNIFIL command has said that the UN under secretary will spend 2 days visiting the UNIFIL forces area of operations before he heads for Israel.

AL-WAZZAN MEETS PRC ENVOY, VIEWS U.S. STATEMENT

NC111302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan began his official duties at his office this morning by holding contacts with the security commands. He then received the FRG charge d'affaires, who discussed with him the diplomatic and international activity concerning the situation in Lebanon.

The prime minister then received the Chinese ambassador to Lebanon, who came to bid the prime minister farewell. The ambassador stated after the meeting that on this occasion he discussed with the prime minister the latest developments in Lebanon. He said: We hope the Lebanese Government will succeed through its contacts to restore calm and stability in Lebanon.

Regarding the Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon, the Chinese ambassador said: We strongly denounce these aggressions and support the Lebanese people's attempts to regain their lands and safeguard their independence.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan later went to the presidential palace, where he made a statement in which he commented on the U.S. statement regarding Syria's role in the area. He said: We have been dealing with Syria on this basis because we recognize the reality of its role in the area and the need for coordination with it.

Regarding the activity of the Ministerial Committee for National Accord, he said that this activity began yesterday.

AL-WAZZAN VIEWS ISRAELI ATTACKS, EFFORTS TO UNIFY

NC101559 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] In government house, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan was informed about the security situation prevailing in the south. He also held intense contacts with those officials concerned so that they could brief him on the latest developments occurring in the south. In addition, Prime Minister al-Wazzan held contacts with the security organs to learn about the situation in the capital and in Zahlah. He expressed his gratification with the concerned parties' adherence to the cease-fire.

Within the above context, Prime Minister al-Wazzan met at 0900 today with Staff Brig Gen (Nabil Quraytim), the secretary general of the Higher Defense Council. Al-Wazzan and (Quraytim) reviewed all the facts and the developments taking place in Lebanon.

At 1100 Prime Minister al-Wazzan received (Mr Lucien Cicenland), the president of the Arab-European friendship associations.

Upon departing government house, Prime Minister al-Wazzan answered questions by newsmen on the security situation in the country. The prime minister said: The security situation in Zahlah is calm. The quarters concerned are discharging their duty. However, it is painful and regrettable that last night Israel made landings in some areas in the south. Furthermore, air raids were launched against southern Lebanon in the areas of Ad-Damur and Ad-Dalahamiyah.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: There can be no doubt that these attacks indicate that a plan is still being implemented to destroy Lebanon, instill fear in it, foment sedition among its sons and confuse the government by preoccupying it with one problem or another, although the government is working diligently to restore normalcy. I will not tire of saying that to achieve this objective requires us to constantly state that it is imperative for all the Lebanese to work to resolve these problems. The reason is that we are passing through extraordinary and serious circumstances, under which it is inevitable that there should be extraordinary actions to face up to the seriousness of the circumstances. It behooves all the political and nonpolitical factions and commands to be alert to the seriousness of this phase and to cooperate among themselves to the maximum extent.

Now that everybody, particularly the leaders, is insisting on entering the political arena, I state that they have no choice but to exercise some soul-searching, to examine their conscience, and to collaborate among themselves and proceed along the path of reconciliation.

The prime minister said: On this premise, today I contacted the Ministerial Committee on National Reconciliation, which is now in session in the Republican Palace. I made this contact through Minister Joseph Abu Khatir, so that he will convey my feelings to the committee members. I emphasized the need for serious action in this respect, because reconciliation is the sole way open to the Lebanese so that we will be able to get out of the tragedy in which we now find ourselves.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked about the fear of renewed conflagration prevailing among the citizens. He was also asked whether the state has made any representations to the parties concerned. He said: These representations are being made. Many people, like you, are speaking about their fears. We also share the feelings of all the citizens. We are acting on the basis of all the things which arouse fear and on the basis of all those things which induce reassurance. There can be no doubt that under all circumstances work is required. It is impossible to capitulate to despair. Nor is it possible to remain indifferent. It is incumbent upon us to work as long as the cause is our homeland's cause.

Israeli 'Aggressions'

NC101931 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli raids, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said this evening that these aggressions prove anew that the plot is continuing. The minute Lebanon is reassured about a certain area through a truce or a cease-fire, it is surprised by renewed Israeli aggressions in more than one area, particularly near the capital. It is as if Israel wants to constantly say: I am here continuing the aggression. Al-Wazzan further said: I would like to draw the attention of the envoys who have recently visited us to the facts that we have reiterated to them. They must make moves on the course that must be followed by checking Israel if they really want peace in the area and in Lebanon.

BEGIN SPEAKS ON LEBANESE SITUATION, OTHER ISSUES

TA121754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Israel will continue with deterrent actions against terrorists inside their bases in Lebanon and elsewhere. These remarks were made less than an hour ago by Menahem Begin, at a meeting with students from a school in Qiryat Malakhi. However, the prime minister and defense minister stressed that Israel would not interfere with the establishment of a multinational force in southern Lebanon, nor would it try to influence a UN resolution on this issue. Yaron 'Enosh reports from Qiryat Malakhi:

['Enosh] There has recently been a change in the United States and Europe concerning Syria's intervention in Lebanon. The prime minister said this in the opening to his remarks here. This change, he added, is contributing to the ever-increasing gap between what Israel believes is Syria's role in Lebanon and what Europe and the United States believe. However, according to him, Israel has a commitment to the Christians in Lebanon and this commitment will continue in the future.

[Begin recording] [Begin] [words indistinct] We have helped and we are continuing to help the Christian minority, just as we would help any minority whose existence is in danger. [end recording]

['Enosh] Referring to Israel's latest military actions inside Lebanon, the prime minister said that we would not wait in the future, either, for terrorist actions against citizens inside Israel. The IDF, according to him, will continue to act within the territory of the enemy:

[Begin recording] [Begin] We use another method; we go to their bases, we hit them, we fill them with horror and fear. We disperse them, we bomb them, we force them to defend themselves, to worry about self-defense. In this way we prevent many of us from being victims. [end recording]

['Enosh] The prime minister also referred to the issue of the establishment of a multinational force in southern Lebanon. We should not interfere with the establishment of a national [as heard] force, he said, and we will not try to influence a resolution on this issue. All that we want is quiet in the area, the prime minister said in conclusion. From Qiryat Malakhi, I return you to the studio.

Arms Deals, Election

TA122054 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2050 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Qiryat Malakhi, 12 Apr--Mr Begin has rejected criticism that the government was not doing enough to prevent the arms deals with Saudi Arabia and added that the arms flow was a danger to Israel.

Mr Begin made the remarks when he was replying to questions by students while visiting Qiryat Malakhi as part of the celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the settlement.

Referring to the Israeli election campaign, Mr Begin said: "We cannot ignore the fact that the Alignment did gain a definite majority in the Histadrut elections and that is a victory, but we must not forget that every fourth worker voted for us and this gives us a basis and a good chance that after the Knesset elections we will again form the government in Israel."

Mr Begin added that, in his view, a definite majority for one list and one-party rule in Israel would be a danger to democracy. However, he was not prepared to say in advance what sort of government he would form if required to form one. He wuld wait until after the election results. He wants a coalition government and, if possible, one of national unity.

In reply to another question, Mr Begin refrained from expressing his opinion about MK Moshe Dayan's Telem list. "After we count the votes we will take a position," he said and added that it was everyone's right to establish a list and ask for the public's trust.

CABINET MEETING DISCUSSES LEBANON, OTHER SUBJECTS

TA121159 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] The weekly Cabinet meeting ended at the prime minister's office a few minutes ago. Among other things Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported on the emerging tendency to send a UN force to Lebanon in order to put an end to the hostilities between the Christians and the Syrians. Correspondent Arye Golan reports that the tendency in the Cabinet is to support the establishment of such a force if it replaces the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon. Officially, Israel has not yet settled on a position on this issue.

At the beginning of the meeting Prime Minister and Defense Minister Begin, the chief of staff and the intelligence branch head reported on IDF's operations in Lebanon. The prime minister lauded the IDF soldiers' action, congratulated the chief of staff and the soldiers for their success, wished the wounded soldier a speedy recovery and sent condolences to the family of soldier Yuval Efrati, who was killed at the end of last week.

Haig Visit, AWACS Issue

TA121903 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] The Cabinet today was also briefed on the Haig visit. Prime Minister Begin was happy with its outcome, pointing out that the secretary had referred to Israel as an ally.

The dialogue with the United States on the supply of the AWACS will go on and Israel will continue to give expression to its concern.

Our reporter says the feeling in Jerusalem is that leasing the planes is no solution. The important point is: Who gets the information collected by the intelligence-gathering aircraft?

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON U.S. STRATEGY, OTHER TOPICS

TA101713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Interview of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on IDF radio's "Gentlemen, the Press" program by moderator Yeshayahu Ben-Porat, political correspondent Gad Becker and Israeli television's political correspondent Elimelekh Ram--recorded 10 April; place of interview not stated]

[Excerpt] [Ben-Porat] Mr Minister, the U.S. secretary of state this week concluded his first Middle East visit. In light of your meetings with Mr Alexander Haig--in the United States and in Israel--can you confirm the commentators' assumption concerning the existence of a new U.S. strategy and policy in the Middle East?

[Shamir] I would say that there is a desire to crystallize a new U.S. strategy and policy in the Middle East. What has so far become clear is approximately the lines, the trends; as yet there is nothing whole and complete. I believe that the secretary of state's visit to the Middle East should contribute to the formulation of the new policy and the new strategy. I think he learned several things here. We may expect that in the future these lines will become crystallized and a whole policy will be formulated--at which time we will be able to say that there exists a new strategy and a new policy.

[Ram] Mr Shamir, how would you like to see Israel being integrated into the new U.S. strategy in the Middle East?

[Shamir] I cannot speak of Israel's being integrated; I prefer to speak of cooperation between Israel and Israel's great friend, the United States, in the defense of the region against invasions and encroachments of foreign elements that are threatening the security of all the states of the region.

[Ram] Can this be done, in your view, without Egypt, without Saudi Arabia?

[Shamir] What must be formulated is some sort of overall policy with the desire to oppose the encroachments of foreign elements being more dominant and stronger than the region's internal enmities.

[Becker] Would you say that this common goal of the prevention of Soviet imperialist expansion--as Haig terms it--jointly by countries such as Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt--with Israel hardly enjoying close relations with Jordan and Saudi Arabia--and achieving this objective without maintaining some sort of contact among all those countries is attainable?

[Shamir] It is still too soon to speak of any sort of cooperation among all the states of the region. After all, we remember the various attempts made in the fifties to form a joint front of the region's countries against the Soviet menace--attempts which did not succeed. At the same time, this aim of making such attempts is a recurring one because of the objective circumstances, which have not changed. The new U.S. administration is seeking its own ways. I think that its ways will be to achieve bilateral relations with each and every country in such a way that these bilateral relations will enable the United States--and mainly the region's countries--to prefer the common danger to the regional conflicts.

[Ben-Porat] Mr Shamir, I have noticed some change in the semantics of the U.S. declarations and statements recently--in fact, since Ronald Reagan entered the White House. If I am not mistaken, they now make far more use of such terms as security and defense than the previous administration did. Would you say that Haig is security oriented?

[Shamir] I would not define him in this way. However, there can be no doubt that the new administration is placing the emphasis--more than its predecessor did--on the problems relating to the United States' security and military strength.

[Ben-Porat] Does this, however, also include the security of the Middle East and the change of policy here?

[Shamir] Definitely. This includes the Middle East. The members of the new administration believe that in order to resolve the problems of the Middle East, and in order to formulate a policy of genuine cooperation between the region's countries and the United States, the United States must first of all strengthen and enhance its prestige to a large degree--its prestige in the region, its credibility.

And since the countries of the region will then regard more seriously the desires, aims and commitments of the United States, the United States will then find it easier to achieve that cooperation it wishes.

[Ram] Mr Shamir, in the course of a working session the secretary of state held on Monday morning at the Foreign Ministry, he hinted at a possible change in Saudi Arabia's policy toward Israel, perhaps toward the entire peace process. Do you believe, or did you make it clear to the secretary of state, that a global strategy against Soviet expansionism in the Middle East depends primarily on several of the more moderate countries--such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia--joining the peace process?

[Shamir] We did not follow a dogmatic course. I do not think that can be helpful and I do not think that in the formulation of long-term policy a dogmatic approach can be adopted, which asserts that one thing depends on another. All told, there are several trends here which at the moment are contradictory, several interests which at the moment clash with one another; and there exists a certain line of thought, perhaps a vision, of arriving at a future in which these contradictions will have disappeared. We described to the secretary of state the existing differences between, for example, Saudi Arabia and Israel. We believe that Saudi Arabia's opposition to Israel, its enmity toward Israel, today serves the interests of the existing Saudi regime. The secretary of state did not deny this but he said: Do you want me to conclude from this that the situation cannot be changed? Are we to despair of any possibility that this situation will one day be altered? The United States believes--and Haig believes--that through his enhancing U.S. prestige, by upping its credibility, by Saudi Arabia and the Saudi regime coming to rely more on the help of the United States, by being convinced that the United States will be their prop, even in times of distress--a belief they lost after what happened in Iran--the United States will then be able to influence them and get them to change their policy. But this, of course, is, I would say, more a vision than a program.

[Becker] Do you think it is at all possible?

[Shamir] Theoretically, everything is possible.

[Becker] Would you say that the full implementation of this vision, if we may put it that way--the new U.S. perception--would take the form of Israelis and Jordanians fighting shoulder to shoulder in some desert in the east against a Soviet invasion?

[Shamir] No one is thinking of combat. What is desired is the building of a force and a system of forces that will prove a deterrent to war, that will not enable war. No one is thinking of war.

[Becker] Mr Shamir, when you spoke with Alexander Haig and outlined to him the whole complex of strategic problems facing Israel, did you also raise the nuclear danger stemming from the construction of the nuclear reactor in Iraq? Did the U.S. personnel have anything to say about this new danger?

[Shamir] The visit was a short one. We did not go into details on all issues. We did also mention this subject and the United States is aware of it; but we did not go into details.

[Ben-Porat] Mr Shamir, the deputy defense minister yesterday told a morning paper that we are about to launch a tough struggle against the supply of the famous AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Can you confirm this?

[Shamir] I cannot comment on what the deputy defense minister said, nor did I hear it with my own ears. I can only say that we are strongly opposed to this supply to Saudi Arabia and we are continuing to make our views known to everyone who asks us. Our view on this matter is known in the United States to everyone who takes an interest in the situation in the region.

[Ben-Porat] But the impression could be--or more correctly has been--created that there are more people there who are fighting against the supply of these aircraft than there are here in Israel, that our voice is perhaps not being heard sufficiently.

[Shamir] In general, this is an internal campaign in the United States. We forget that, after all, it is not we who are struggling in the U.S. Congress against the administration on this deal; it is Americans who are engaged in this--congressmen and senators--and it is not we who are waging in this battle. We are just explaining our view: we cannot take part in the internal U.S. debate.

[Ram] Mr Shamir, during your visit to the United States about a month ago, and immediately thereafter, as well as in the first Cabinet session you took part in following your return from the United States, the impression was created that, in fact, Israel does not believe it will be able to get the U.S. decision changed. Yet in the wake of the reactions in the Congress--and, if I may say so, Haig's failure to change the Saudis' and Jordanians' stand on the peace treaty--do you believe that there is any chance today of thwarting this intention to sell the advanced weaponry, the AWACS and the F-15 fighters, to Saudi Arabia?

[Shamir] No one could have known then exactly what the position of Congress would be. It is true that we were told by the State Department that they were certain that the deal would get congressional approval. Now, according to the latest reports from the United States, this is no longer certain. However, I would not risk saying today that I think that the result will be one thing and not another. As I said, it is not in our hands. We are, once again, explaining our stands: they have not changed. We believe that the supply of this advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia will endanger Israel without adding a thing to the security of the United States.

[Ram] Even before Haig's visit ended, we heard about an apparent change in the U.S. stand, with the goal being not to sell AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia but to lease them for 4 years and to have them operated by U.S. teams. Do you regard this as moderating the danger?

[Shamir] We have no precise details on this. We were not told anything about this shift. And since we have no details, I do not really know whether this does in fact constitute a change. I do not know yet, so I cannot comment.

[Becker] Mr Shamir, another topic that exists in our relations with the United States--as well as with Egypt--is that of the formation of the multinational force. This subject has recently been linked with another issue: the bases that Israel will evacuate in Sinai. Is there any prospect today, given the Egyptian and U.S. stands, that these bases--and, naturally, most of the attention is being given to the 'Ezyon and Etan airfields--will be transferred for use by the multinational supervisory force or for U.S. use in some manner?

[Shamir] Nothing has as yet been decided on this and there are no negotiations underway on these matters. We are today discussing with the United States--and the United States is discussing with Egypt--the makeup of the force, how it will be formed, its size. There has been no discussion as yet about the fate of the airfields.

[Becke] If so, has no decision been taken either on which security installations will be perhaps destroyed?

[Shamir] Nothing beyond what the peace treaty obligates.

[Ram] To what extent do you think U.S. aid to Israel will be affected by the drastic cuts in the U.S. budget?

[Shamir] This is a real problem. However, we have been told by the United States—I was told by President Reagan--and this is also being stressed by the secretary of state and the secretary of defense, that despite the U.S. policy of budget cuts, the aid to Israel will not be adversely affected.

[Ram] Does this mean it will have the same dimensions it had last year?

[Shamir] This has already been promised for the coming year--that it will be no smaller than it was last year. But other areas of the aid are also being spoken of--the economic-security sphere, I would say--and the coming years are also under discussion. We very much hope that despite the policy of budget cuts, aid to Israel will not be affected.

[Ram] What did the United States in fact offer us as compensation for the Saudi deal?

[Shamir] No compensation is involved. No one is talking about compensation, neither us nor them. We are just explaining to them Israel's problem, with Israel being unable, even economically, to cope with the arms race, whose dimensions in the Middle East are growing. Therefore, we are speaking of various forms of aid. First of all, that the overall totals will not be smaller than what we received previously, and will perhaps be larger. Secondly, the form of the aid--after all, part of the aid is a grant and part is a loan--to enlarge the grant portion at the expense of the loans portion. There are also matters of various kinds of loans: there are low-interest loans, loans at higher interest; economically the difference is great. This is under discussion. There are problems relating to Israeli exports to the U.S. defense system, which could be greatly increased--and this would strengthen Israel's economic strength. There is a problem of Israeli participation in tenders in the United States designed for the security forces. There are problems of Israeli arms exports to various countries, arms which contain U.S.-made components. This is also a problem, and here the United States is ready to make things easier for us. All told, what they are proposing is to increase Israel's possibilities of fulfilling its security tasks from the economic point of view.

[Ben-Porat] I suggest that we raise the Lebanese issue, which is of current interest. My question is as follows: Have we contributed, or tried to contribute, by use of diplomatic means, to moderating or calming the Syrians?

[Shamir] Certainly. First, we took diplomatic action. We asked the United States to take all measures to stop the wild Syrian massacre. I must say that the United States has acted and is acting very extensively on this matter. I would not say this is a result of our appeal but this can be still attributed, to a certain degree, to our appeal. Also, the United States acts not only in order to comply with our request but perhaps also out of the fear that if this situation does not change, Israel may do something. The United States, and especially the U.S. secretary of state while he was still in the region and afterward, has done its best with regard to all elements that can influence Syria so that a cease-fire can ultimately be reached. He has not been successful yet, indeed, but he may still succeed.

[Becker] Mr Shamir, you are saying that the U.S. secretary of state is perhaps acting since he thinks that Israel may have to do something. If indeed the situation remained unchanged, if the Syrian shellings continued, would Israel have to intervene in ways other than diplomatic, in military ways, in Lebanon?

[Shamir] We have not said anything on this matter but it can be assumed, it may be understood, that Israel cannot be passive when such acts are going on in a neighboring country such as Lebanon. We have interests in Lebanon. We have security interests there. Therefore, the United States feels committed to do everything it can through diplomatic means in order also not to let such tendencies rise in Israel.

[Ram] Mr Shamir, the deputy defense minister said Israel will not refrain from adopting physical means if necessary. The question is what the border line is--when, or under what circumstances, will Israel decide to physically intervene in Lebanon?

[Shamir] Israel will decide when its security interests compel it to do so. Israel is intervening in Lebanon today. Indeed, our actions, the military actions we carry out on Lebanese territory, are not directed against the Lebanese Government, against the Lebanese country which, to my great regret, hardly exists today; but we are operating on Lebanese soil in order to defend ourselves. We attack terrorist bases there and we defend Christian concentrations in southern Lebanon. We are surely involved in events there.

[Ram] Let us take the example of Zahlah. This is not southern Lebanon. On what conditions would Israel physically intervene there?

[Shamir] I do not think you are expecting an answer.

[Ram] My apology then.

[Shamir] In any situation that may develop in Lebanon, Israel will discuss and consider what it can do, what it needs to do and what it is allowed to do. However, I think this will be of no service to anybody if we said today what we would do in this or that hypothetical case.

[Becker] Can you perhaps provide a better explanation for the difference, as far as Israel is conerned, between events in southern and northern Lebanon? After all, we are concerned also about the situation in the north of Lebanon.

[Shamir] Undoubtedly. I would say that it is in Israel's interest to see a free and independent Lebanon, a Lebanon liberated from foreign occupation by Syrians or terrorist-Palestinian elements. This is our interest. What means should we take in order to achieve our goals? This depends on conditions, on various considerations and on the international situation. Things should, however, be discussed, considered and decided when the need arises.

[Ram] Mr Shamir, to what degree can Israel supervise Major Haddad's forces so that they do not cause such an escalation as to cause us to intervene against our will?

[Shamir] We will never be dragged into things we are not interested in. It is true that Israel cannot always supervise, guide and direct Major Haddad's activities, although we aid him and cooperate with him. However, also in cases where we have no control, Israel will never do anything against its will.

[Ben-Porat] Following the IDF's operation in Lebanon last night, Paris radio carried a commentary that this operation has two objectives: first, as we declared, this is Israel's policy of striking the terrorists at their bases; and second, to give the Christians some encouragement on the one hand, and on the other hand to hint to the Syrians that there is a red line somewhere. Can you confirm this commentary?

[Shamir] Well, this is a commentary. I have no objection that both the Christians in Lebanon and the Syrians understand things in this manner.

[Ram] Let me go back to U.S. Secretary of State Haig's visit in Israel. One of the subjects discussed was the resumption of the autonomy talks. Do you think it is realistic to expect a resumption of the talks before the elections in Israel?

[Shamir] I regret that I cannot say that there is a reasonable chance this will indeed happen, simply because the partner to the negotiations is not interested in this. The partner to the negotiations has repeatedly announced that it prefers to wait. However, I think it is our duty to announce every time and on every occasion that we are prepared to renew the negotiations anywhere and any time.

[Ram] Do you think, though, that this will occur before 30 June?

[Shamir] According to facts, according to the Egyptians' declarations, I do not believe this can happen before 30 June. Also, I do not know when this will happen once the elections are over.

TZIPORI COMMENTS ON HAIG'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

TA121908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Interview of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori by Shim'on Ayalon; time and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] The recent visit to the area by the U.S. secretary of state, Alexander Haig, gave the impression that he was visiting four countries: Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which could, if necessary, form a bulwark against Soviet expansionism. How do you see this?

[Answer] I think he visited those countries that, from a strategic point of view, have a value to contain the Soviets in the region and to defend the oil resources, but I don't think that even the Americans believe that those countries are able to fight the Russians.

Mainly, I think that he is looking at this terrain, or those countries, as some basis to enable the Western powers to contain or to fight the Russians, with some support of those countries. I hope that, during his visit, he had a lesson, too, and he can compare what does it mean, the State of Israel, with our power, comparing it with those countries that he visited.

TZIPORI DISCUSSES LEBANON WITH UN'S ERSKINE

TA130820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori this morning held a long talk in Jerusalem with the chief of staff of the UN truce supervision organization, General Erskine. The two discussed events in northern Lebanon, in Zahlah, and also discussed the situation in southern Lebanon. Following the meeting, they noted that a considerable improvement had occurred in the cooperation between UNIFIL and the other elements operating in southern Lebanon. They expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue in the future. Prime Minister Menahem Begin is to meet this morning with the UN secretary general's special envoy to Lebanon, Brian Urquhart.

FREETOWN UN ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ENDS

AB111131 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 11 Apr 81

[By Claude Juvenal]

[Text] Freetown, Sierra Leone, 11 Apr (AFP)--The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, ECA, ended a ministerial meeting here last night without publishing a final declaration that would have stressed the need for urgent aid to the continent's poorest countries. Reliable sources said the oil producers objected.

The sources said that the ministers decided not to release a document on urgent economic crises and problems facing Africa, which was proposed behind closed doors Wednesday by the commission's secretariat. The sources said the wealthier African states had opposed the document, which some of the other delegations had wanted published as a Freetown declaration.

Executive Secretary Adebayo Adedeji said that the document will be sent privately to the commission's 50 member governments to study. He could not say whether it would come up at the next summit of the Organization of African Unity in Nairobi in July.

The document reportedly analyzes, in the spirit of the Lagos Economic Action Plan adopted by the OAU in the Nigerian capital last year, the most pressing needs and problems of African countries.

Some of these are: chronic drought in the Sahel belt just below the Sahara, growing food-production deficits of some countries, energy bills of non-oil-producing states and repayment of foreign debt.

On the national level, sources said the commission document proposed measures individual states could apply, such as limiting oil consumption and giving priority to mass transit rather than individual means of transportation.

Africawide, the document called for a summit of oil-producing states to study ways they could help their poor brethren. The commission took up anew the old idea of preferential oil prices for the last favored African nations, and suggested that oil producers reinvest some of their petrodollars there.

Reacting negatively to these ideas, the sources said, some of the African members of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) took shelter behind the rules of the producer's cartel. These delegates also said they were not empowered to commit their countries to additional expenditure.

We were not mandated to approve such a document, and finally reason won out, said one of the oil-country delegates.

African members of OPEC are Nigeria, Gabon, Libya and Algeria. Other states that produce significant quantities of oil or are expected to in the near future include Angola, Cameroon and Ivory Coast.

Some delegates did not hide their disappointment after the meeting. They remarked that Africa always encounters the same selfishness as soon as someone tries to apply the principles of unity to economic matters.

In the absence of a final declaration, the economic commission's ministerial council limited itself to ratifying the results of meetings of social affairs and transport ministers held over the last six months in Addis Ababa.

The council adopted 23 resolutions, drawn up by a preparatory committee, on application of the Lagos action plan. One calls for a detailed report on the implementation of and obstacles to the plan, to be prepared by the commission and the secretary general of the OAU. The report is to be submitted to the ministerial council next year in Tripoli, and to the next OAU economic summit in 1982. The Freetown meeting also allowed the ECA to collect, from 24 states, 1.5 million dollars in contributions for its special fund.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B ATTACKS 'OBJECTIVES' OF HAIG TOUR

LD101547 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Fixed Objective"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state is on a tour of the Middle East, including Egypt, occupied Palestine, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The aim of this visit, according to the secretary of state, is to hold further "dialogue and consultations with friends of the United States regarding developments in and around the area." The secretary expressed the hope that his visit and his talks will lead to "greater understanding" of the U.S. role on the issue of "Gulf security" and "the peace process in the Middle East on the basis of the Camp David accords."

These remarks throw sufficient light on the basic objectives of Haig's mission in the area, objectives which do not serve the interest of the area as much as they do serve to consolidate the U.S. presence there militarily and politically. The aim is also to discuss the establishment of an Arab camp supporting the United States and its policy in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world and, consequently, to create more gaps in what is left of a shaken and weakened Arab solidarity.

The United States is aware that it cannot fully achieve its objectives in the area except by creating deep and violent Arab divisions. Unfortunately, at this particular time Washington is treating its friends only as a source of oil which it will exploit to the last drop and then abandon when the oil dries up; it also treats them as a market for its products, and one which it will dispense with when that market is no longer able to absorb such products or when it finds a better market; it treats them as a territory on which it can establish military bases, or as staging areas or proving grounds. All of which disturbs the peace in the area, creates political dishonor and turns the area into a field of horrifying international conflict which causes the greatest damage to the area and its peoples and destroys all possibilities of its progress and prosperity.

The only party which the United States treats as a friend in the area is Israel. This is evident in the U.S. support for all the Zionist entity's stands on the Middle East crisis, and the Palestine problem in particular, and its disregard for any Arab viewpoint on the Palestine problem. Just like Israel, it denies the Palestinian people's rights and considers the PLO a terrorist organization.

It is no longer a secret that the United States is seeking to make Israel militarily stronger than all the Arab countries put together. This was confirmed in Haig's statement on his arrival in occupied Palestine when he said: "It is necessary for Israel to be strong in order to establish peace in the Middle East." The establishment of a U.S. peace does actually require that Israel be militarily stronger than all the Arabs because Israel is the hidden U.S. strike force in the Middle East.

It is observed that Haig's tour of the area was accompanied by a Zionist military escalation in Lebanon aimed at the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist forces supporting it. This proves to us once again that the fixed objective of U.S. policy has been and remains--in addition to reviving the Camp David accords and consolidating the U.S. military presence in Sinai and the Gulf--to strike at the Palestinian resistance and to finally liquidate it.

LIBYA

OFFICIAL EXPLAINS BOYCOTT OF REFUGEE CONFERENCE

LD120930 Tripoli JANA in English 0720 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Geneva, 12 Apr (JANA)--The Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has boycotted the international conference held to discuss aid to the African refugees, which began its work in Geneva last Thursday, because of the participation of the Zionist enemy. The brother secretary of the popular committee for the Popular Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday held a press conference at which he explained the Jamahiriyah's attitude and its reasons for boycotting the conference.

He said we have explained to our African friends that it is illogical for a conference discussing the humanitarian problems affecting refugees to permit the Zionist enemy, which is responsible for the biggest refugee problem in the world, to attend.

He added that the Jamahiriyah did not attend the conference because it felt the conference was not important or because it was not keen on helping the Africans to solve their problems, for it is already fully performing its role in this regard, but it did not attend because of the participation of the Zionist enemy, he said. He told the pressmen that he was surprised to see the Zionist enemy had been invited, for throughout contacts with the OAU and with the secretariat preparing the conference, there was no mention whatsoever that the Zionist enemy would be invited to attend.

JALLUD MEETS EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS IN BERLIN

LD120900 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Berlin, 12 April (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud yesterday met President Erich Honecker of the German Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Unified German Socialist Party. Staff Major Jallud conveyed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's greetings to the German leader.

The meeting was attended by Willi Stoph, vice chairman of the Council of State and member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party Central Committee, Guenter Mittag, member of the political bureau andAlfred Steiger, member of the Central Committee and minister of electrical and electonic tehnology.

MAURITANIA

PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR VISIT TO LIBYA 10 APR

AB101501 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] The prime minister and head of government, Mr Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara, left Nouakchott this morning for Libya at the invitation of the authorities of that country. The prime minister is accompanied by a highpowered delegation including, in particular, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Mr Mohamed El Mokhtar Ould Zamel; Mr Daffa Bakary, minister of equipment and transport; and Mr (Mahdib Ould Zahdi), the director of the prime minister's office.

Interior Minister Baham Ould Mohamed Laghdaf will be in charge of the prime ministry during the absence of Prime Minister Bneijara, who was seen off at the airport by cabinet members and several top-level political and administrative officials present in the capital.

ETHIOPIA

YEPISHEV HOLDS TALKS WITH MENGISTU, ENDS VISIT

Air Force Base Visit

LD101921 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Army General Yepishev, chief of the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army and Navy, today visited the Ethiopian air force base and revolutionary Ethiopia heroes center outside Addis Ababa.

Comrade Army General Yepishev and members of the high-level delegation were accompanied during the visit by Comrade Col Gebreyes Wolde Hana, head of the Main Political Department of the revolutionary army and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia [COPWE] Central Committee member.

Yephisev-Mengistu Talks

LD113020 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, today received and held talks with Comrade Army General Yepishev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, hero of the Soviet Union and member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Following a ceremony held in the Comrade Chairman's COPWE office this afternoon, Comrade Chairman Mengistu and Comrade Army General Yepishev held talks on relations and friendship between the two sisterly countries.

Present on the occasion were: Comrade Brig Gen Gebre Kidan Tesfaye, PMAC Standing Committee member; Comrade Col Gebreyes Wolde Hana, head of the Main Political Department of revolutionary Ethiopia's revolutionary army and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Lt Col Kibret Gonite, first deputy head of the Main Political Department of revolutionary Ethiopia's revolutionary army and COPWE Central Committee member; members of the high-level delegation led by Comrade Army General Yepishev and Comrade Boris Kirnasovskiy, the Soviet Ambassador to socialist Ethiopia.

Comrade Army General Yepishev was introduced to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam by Comrade Fiseha Geda, chief of protocol in the chairman's office and COPWE Central Committee member.

Departure Remarks

LD121840 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 12 Apr 81 EA

[Text] I have seen that the revolution of the Ethiopian broad masses, which is determined to follow the socialist path of development, is laying foundations for permanent victories in various fields. This was stated by Comrade Army General Yepishev in a statement to journalists at Bole International Airport before he left for Moscow at the end of his 7-day working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

Comrade Army General Yepishev noted that during their visit he and his high-level military delegation were able to see for themselves the joint efforts made by the revolutionary Ethiopian army and the working masses toward the success of the Ethiopian revolution and the stage of development attained by the revolution. The comrade army general said that revolutionary Ethiopia's revolutionary army and the Soviet Army stand for the same cause, adding that he believes that the relations and close ties between the two armies will be further strengthened. Comrade Army General Yepishev expressed his firm conviction that the Ethiopian revolution will emerge victorious and wished the broad masses of Ethiopia prosperity and the revolutionary army victory.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR ALGIERS 12 APR

LD121857 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 12 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle Giorgis, foreign minister and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, this morning left for Algiers to deliver Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam's written message to the Algerian leader and to attend the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Committee session on Namibia, due to start in Algiers next Tuesday.

KENYA

PRESIDENT ISSUES WARNING TO 'DISRUPTIVE' ELEMENTS

LD121542 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 81 EA

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi has sounded a warning to the people of Nyanza that his patience was running out and that his humility should not be overexploited by a few disruptive and self-conceited elements in the area. He said that some leaders who harbored outmoded political thoughts were causing disunity and sowing the seeds of discord among peace-loving wananchi. President Moi was addressing a mammoth fund raising meeting yesterday in aid of Riat [Ramogi Institute of Advanced Technology] in Kisumu.

In a hard-hitting address President Moi told Nyanza leaders that if they wanted peace, they must be prepared to demonstrate that they were true nyayo [footsteps] followers, adding that he would not continue preaching peace, love and unity to people who were never prepared to listen. He said that since becoming the president of this republic, he had given the people of Nyanza high positions in the government and parastatals and wondered why they were not grateful for all the support he had given them.

Turning to the recent outburst by the chairman of the Cotton Lint and Seed Marketing Board, Mr Oginga Odinga, President Moi said he was surprised that what was said could have come from Odinga. He told the huge crowd that he was the only father and head of government in this country, adding that he had no illusions about his commitment of the welfare of the children and the people of this country. Noting that some leaders nurtured dirty designs and still hoped that he would continue respecting them President Moi lashed out at Nyando MP Onyango Midika for supporting Odinga in his utterances. He warned that he will not keep on watching people playing dirty tricks on his government and said that those who wanted to be loyal to his government should demonstrate that loyalty to him and not through self-appointed messiahs.

Speaking amid applause, President Moi told the huge crowd that it was his responsibility to lead this country, adding that he will not compromise with those harboring ill-intentions against the government.

SEYCHELLES

STRONGER PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC ZONE URGED

AB130952 Paris AFP in French 0740 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Victoria, 13 Apr (AFP)--Seychelles Defense Minister Ogilvy Berlouis has declared that the country's naval and air force capacities should be strengthened in order to thwart foreign poachers' action in the country's exclusive economic zone, EEZ. The minister, who was speaking on Saturday during a ceremony in honor of new recruits of the Seychelles forces, added that the country will deal strongly with the poachers until they learn to respect our territorial waters and our EEZ, he said. It is to be noted that the Seychelles Supreme Court confired that 2 weeks ago the country's government confiscated a Japanese fishing trawler, the Sumi Maru 25, caught last January while fishing in Seychelles territorial waters.

TANZANIA

ACCORD REACHED WITH CUBA ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

LD121848 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 12 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Cuba and Tanzania have agreed to facilitate projects covering agriculture, education and livestock development. This was stated today by Ndugu Kighoma Malima, minister of state in charge of economic affairs in the office of the vice president.

Ndugu Malima, who returned today from Cuba where he attended a session of the Tanzanian-Cuban Joint Commission, said the commission in particular discussed the implementation of various projects agreed on at last year's meeting. He said during the talks Cuba agreed to improve agricultural education in the country by completing the construction of Kiditu secondary school as well as building schools in Mtwara and Lindi regions.

Moreover Cuba has also agreed to expand the Fidel Castro School in Zanzibar and convert it into an institution for teaching agriculture. [passage indistinct] Cuba has also agreed to assist Tanzania with its fishing industry.

OFFICIAL ON COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION, OIL USE

LD112020 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 11 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya has called on MP's to cooperate with their colleagues in the supervision and distribution of essential commodities. Speaking yesterday before Parliament, Ndugu Msuya said regions must ensure that commodities arrive in the districts and that the districts make sure the commodities reach the villagers.

The prime minister commended regions involved in the proper distribution of commodities and urged those regions whose efforts were still weak in the distribution to emulate the regions that were fulfilling this duty. On the use of oil, Msuya said oil should be used to help important sectors working to consolidate the economy. As well as supervising the use of oil, he called on leaders to economize in the use of oil by scrutinizing non-essential tasks.

UGANDA

MUWANGA SPEAKS ON TANZANIAN WITHDRAWAL, SECURITY

Troop Withdrawal in June

AB111227 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Kampala, 11 April (AFP)--Vice-President Paulo Muwanga today said that the Tanzanian troops stationed in Uganda will leave in June and that no other foreign troops will replace them. Mr. Muwanga, who is also defence minister, was speaking at a second anniversary celebration of the fall of Kampala to Ugandan anti-Amin and Tanzanian forces.

We are not going to import more foreign troops, Mr Muwanga said. The government was aware that underground movements were regrouping in Uganda but he warned that it was not too late for them to win. Whoever thinks they can gain something by killing any of us is mistaken. We may go, but a second set and a third set from the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) will carry on after us, he said.

Mr. Muwanga said that neighbouring countries had promised not to give santuary to Ugandan underground movements.

President Obote, who did not attend todays celebration, was said by an aide to be indisposed.

The vice-president said the government would not collapse, nor would diplomats leave the country because of threatening letters from underground groups to diplomatic missions in Kampala.

Mr Muwanga said he would show no mercy to troops who misbehave or harass civilians, but appealed to civilians to extend the same attitude to soldiers as they expected in return.

Mr Muwanga denied foreign press reports that 200 government troops were killed in an ambush last week. He added that while the government expected correspondents to be responsible, he would never censor foreign press despatches from Kampala.

On the economic front, he admitted that Uganda's problems had multiplied recently and called for more honesty and dedication to work. He also promised that the government would never waver in its dedication to parliamentary democracy.

Warning to 'Bandits'

LD111705 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has sounded a stern warning to the remnant bandits who are bent on causing instability so as to blame the Uganda People's Congress [UPC] Government for disunity.

Speaking at Kololo airstrip today to mark the second anniversary of the liberation of Uganda, Mr Muwanga warned that for the UPC Government, where principle is concerned, life is (?limitless). He said that whoever has the impression that by killing or eliminating one or two UPC supporters he is eliminating the UPC Government, is mistaken. Mr Muwanga pointed out that the UPC Government would like peace to prevail in the country in order to attend to other programs. He assured the people that the government is alert and aware of the needs of the people and is attending to them.

Delivering President Obote's message, Mr Muwanga said: The citizens of Uganda should double their efforts in any sort of life. He reminded the people that the world of today is very small and, therefore, everyone should produce more before he expects any help from other countries. He added that peace and stability can be achieved if everybody works together with others.

The vice president called upon the veterans of war to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation without expecting much in return. He pointed out that life is not a one-way traffic and, therefore, called on fellow countrymen to extend love to soldiers as we expect from them. [words indistinct] The vice president also called upon the people to associate (?their feeling of relentless efforts) with the life of dedicated sons of Uganda who fought to liberate their country.

He also paid tribute to the government and people of Tanzania, the Tanzania people's defense forces, and countries like Mozambique and Zambia who sacrificed all they had to see Uganda liberated. Mr Muwanga pointed out that had it not been for those countries' (?work) hand-in-hand with the dedicated sons of Uganda (word indistinct] there would have been no liberation.

Mr Paulo Muwanga also paid tribute to the military commission which made sure that free and fair elections were held to return parliamentary democracy.

Later a reception was held at the [Kampala] conference center. Those occasions were attended by ministers, the commander of the Uganda National Liberation Army, Maj Gen Tito Okello, and high-ranking government officials.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON UDC CONGRESS IN BANGUI

AB091532 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Apr 81

[Communique issued at the end of the extraordinary congress of the ruling Central African Democratic Union (UDC) held in Bangui from 7 to 9 April 1981--read by Mr Jean-Claude Kazagui, secretary general of the party.]

[Excerpt] Your Excellency, president of the republic and founding chairman of our party, the Central African Democratic Union [UDC]; honorable prime minister; honorable ministers; honorable congress members: The extraordinary congress of the UDC met in the Conference Hall of the [word indistinct] in Bangui from 7-9 April 1981. Present at this congress were the nonparliamentary members of the Central Committee, the section chairman of the UDC, the members of the executive and federal bureaus, the chairman of the section bureaus of Bangui, representatives of the (?collective) organizations of the party, the youth of the UDC, the committees of support and representatives of the organizations of Central African women.

The congress was solemnly opened on 7 April 1981 at 1000 by his excellency the president of the republic, founding chairman of the UDC, flanked by Their Excellencies Simon-Narcisse Bozanga and Jean-Claude Kasagi, respectively prime minister and secretary general of the UDC. Also present at the opening session were the members of the government, the prefects as well as members of the constituted bodies of the state.

In his opening speech, delivered in the national language, the secretary general of the UDC explained to the audience the aims of the extraordinary congress, namely the critical examination of the situation prevailing before, during and after the presidential elections: the preparation of the general elections; the election of the deputy secretary general of the UDC; the reorganization of the services of the executive bureau; and the finances of the party.

In a reply in Sango to the secretary general of the party, the president of the republic and founding chairman of the UDC first thanked the militants of the UDC and all the Central African people for renewing their trust in him during the recent presidential elections. Referring to the acts of barbarism perpetrated by members of other political parties, the founding chairman of the UDC said that he had given the necessary directives to militants of the UDC to observe a sense of dignity in their behavior. The head of state called on the people to unite for the reconstruction of our country. We must do away with tribalism, regionalism and defend the territorial integrity of our country as well as [words indistinct], he said. The president of the republic said we are waging a relentless war against those who preach divisiveness. He therefore asked the secretary general to look into the possibility of opening a school for top officials of the party as soon as possible. This school should be open to all party militants from all regions for their political training.

Referring to all that happened during the election campaign, the president of the republic asked all militants to make sustained efforts to preserve their calm in the face of provocations from their political detractors, in order to keep the good name of our party. He therefore asked the participants to the congress to be radical with erring militants.

In the field of socioeconomic development, the head of state called on militants to show solidarity among themselves and to help one another in all their daily activities. He asked banking institutions to make it easier for militants, traders, farmers and national businessmen to get loan facilities. Concerning the government, the head of state and founding chairman of the UDC said all the members of the government were chosen for their militant activities within the UDC. It is therefore purely a UDC government. It therefore behooves every party militant to give them their maximum support. In conclusion, the head of state demanded that participants in the congress draw up a list of members to be presented for the forthcoming legislative elections.

The next speaker was the prime minister and head of government. On behalf of his government he thanked the founding chairman of the UDC, the secretary general and all the members of the UDC for the confidence they have placed in them. Addressing the head of state, the prime minister said that during the election campaign only a few members of the government and militants demanded that the government should be an exclusively UDC government, and this is what you have done today, he said. The government was then introduced to the audience before the session was suspended to enable the head of state and members of his government to leave the hall.

The session resumed at 1100 with the setting up of the following commissions: Political Commission, Chairman (Mr Joseph Sewuko), Secretary (Mr Mamel Ousmane); Economic Commission, Chairman (Mr Kukunde Elongwe), Secretary (Mr Martin Lambi); Social Commission, President (Mr Issa Khalif), Vice President (Mr Kounde Gadarin), Secretary (Mr Kanje Kabina).

Before the deliberations broke into groups of commissions behind closed doors, the secretary general of the UDC specified to the congress participants the setting up of (?regulations) which enable participants to choose their representatives freely and fairly as they did during the last consultative congress of July 1980 and more precisely during the recent election campaign. The congress will have to put up a list of candidates for the legislative elections. It will appraise the credibility of candidates and all other qualities demanded of a good deputy. That is why we must transcend all personal consideration. The congress will also have to determine who will fill the leadership of the executive bureau. The various commissions worked in a calm and frank atmosphere.

The extraordinary congress took certain measures for the revival of the national economy, and the social and cultural development of our country. First in the ecomomic field a general population census: The UDC extraordinary congress calls on the authorities to immediately resume the population census project. Next, agriculture and food production: The extraordinary congress of the UDC calls on the government to immediately set up rural development agencies and to establish incentives for high agricultural productivity for each town; an accelerated development of mechanized farming, the setting up a mechanism for the National Office for Youth Development to get loans, in order to get the youth interested in farming; the raising of prices for agricultural produce; the implementation of policies on the sales of stock and crops; and the setting up of a financial institution for agricultural loans for the development of the peasantry.

Third, trade and industry: The extraordinary congress of the UDC calls on the government: to open, as soon as possible, distribution depots in provinces such as Bouar, Berberati, Bangoassou, Bossangoa and Mobaye to create and expand (?banks) apart from those already existing in various parts of Central African Republic; to adopt the necessary measures to facilitate access to loans by nationals and to raise interest rates at savings banks; to take the necessary steps to facilitate easy movement of goods and persons and to implement the clause concerning the bouncing of checks as well as [words indistinct] on the radio and television; to give the National Office for the Promotion of Small- and Medium-Size Enterprises the necessary financial aid to sponsor small- and medium-seized enterprises for Central Africans; to give the small- and medium-sized enterprises the monopoly of public contracts of not more than 50 million CFA francs and to revise all the tertiary sectors and the systematic control of prices throughout the country.

LIBERIA

DOE ADDRESSES NATION ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY

AB121509 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1240 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Speech by head of state M Sgt Samuel K. Doe on the occasion of the first anniversary of the People's Redemption Council Government--live]

[Text] Mr Vice Head of State, Mr Speaker, Acting Secretary General and distinguished members of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], distinguished guests, members of the Cabinet, Mr Chief of Staff, Commanding General and members of the Armed Forces of Liberia, doyen and members of the diplomatic corps, chairmen and members of tribunals, other high military (?brass), members of the clergy, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, fellow revolutionaries.

I must first of all welcome all of our people, guests of far and near, who responded to our invitation to celebrate this memorable and historic occasion--the first anniversary of our revolution. For the unprecedented enthusiasm that has gone into the very strenuous preparation for this occasion, I congratulate vice head of state, Maj Gen Sameul Wey Seyn, and members of the National Redemption Celebration Committee. Our special appreciation is also extended to our many contributors--Liberians and our foreign partners in progress--for their generous donations to the success of the occasion. We should not let this occasion pass without paying tribute to every true Liberian who has suffered along with us to make our first anniversary celebration a reality. [applause] The business community needs our special thanks [words indistinct] as they have bravely struggled with us through a difficult time. We are obligated to encourage them to continue to have faith in us. [applause] [Words indistinct] even to those gentlemen who left the country [words indistinct] we invite them to come and join us in building a greater nation.

Fellow citizens and guests, in proclaiming the creation of a new government, I said in my first major policy speech on Monday 14 April 1980 that we are beginning this government with much knowledge and understanding of great injustices suffered by the masses of Liberian people. We set ourselves the duty and target to fight against exploitation; to ensure justice and fairness in society; to provide equal economic and social opportunities for all Liberians; and that the right of private property and the fruit of honest labor will be upheld and respected [applause]. Finally, we promised to quickly bury [word indistinct] into history and to forestall any tendencies towards [words indistinct] to workers, market women, farmers, students, teachers, religious and (?civil) organizations as well as the police and soldiers to climb in pursuance of this noble objective. [applause] Since that time, the people of Liberia have demonstrated their (?supreme) willingness to stand by us and to support all of our policies. We must therefore examine our actions and review our decisions so as to determine if we have followed the sort of action we set out to pursue 1 year ago. We must reexamine the actions we have taken so as to determine any [word indistinct] of the complex and contradictions. We must observe our attitudes [words indistinct] toward checking [words indistinct] the virtues and characteristics of the true revolutionary. [Words indistinct] a deep sense of pride in the fact that we have been able to get this public support throughout the nation. We have done so in spite of (?severe) economic conditions imposed upon us by circumstances of prevailing world economic order as well as the effects of mismanaged economy which we inherited. Because of these conditions, we cannot talk of [words indistinct] during the first year of our anniversary. [passage indistinct]

Concerning government promises, and given the fact that we are in the process of drafting a new constitution as a prelude to civilian rule, we are appealing to our friends in the international community to help us to [words indistinct]. [applause] In an effort to ensure that the people of this country enjoy the benefit of good housing, we are authorizing the national housing and savings bank to reconsider its new stand to Liberians with a view to removing some of the restrictions which currently make it impossible for small people to benefit from its service. [applause]

In keeping with our recent pronouncements on the reduction of rents, the council will shortly appoint a rent control board to supervise the implementation of the relevant decree on this issue. The board will also ensure that there will be no arbitrary increase in rent and get guarantees that contractors' agreements are honored.

On 1 July the PRC Government launched a 4-year socioeconomic development plan that will concentrate on development projects to meet the specific needs of the people. This plan will ensure that development projects are no longer concentrated in only one area. In the new plan, emphasis will be focused on eliminating all wasteful spending in government, improving our methods of collecting revenues and using loans only in financing projects [words indistinct].

Fellow citizens, when we took over the government, we discovered that the nation was in deep economic and financial trouble, due mainly to the very heavy [word indistinct] government spending which created a large budgetary deficit in the 4 years preceeding 1980. The financing of this deficit increased the external debt and worsened the composition of [word indistinct] commercial service. Consequently, the PRC Government faced an external total indebtedness of about $700 million. We also discovered that the National Bank of Liberia's cash position was very poor. This situation complicated our task for managing to hold the economy together; of (?stumbling blocks) at home and aborad; and for laying the foundation for national recovery. As a responsible government, we did not ignore the debt incurred by the former regime. The PRC thought it desirable to assume all outstanding contractual obligations and our creditors were informed accordingly.

Because of our commitment of fiscal responsibility to which the past government lacked, the budgetary deficit was narrowed by both [words indistinct] business revenue and reducing of expenditure. These efforts were supplemented by a 2-year assistance program from the IMF, amounting to $85 million, of which about $37 million is being made available in the first year. The budget for fiscal year 1980-81, which is perfectly operational, incorporated the new elements of these arrangements.

As a demonstration of our intent to help ourselves and government, the people and the nation, we initiated a foreign fiscal discipline outlined in our 17 November statement to the nation on the economic and financial situation in the country. We called on all Liberians to invest in a national savings bond scheme and I am pleased to report that response from both the private and the public sector has been most favorable. [applause] In the first month of the scheme, the contributions totaled $6.2 million to $2.8 million and $3.4 million in tax collections. [sentence as heard] With this trend, we hope to realize about $25 million from the scheme. International organizations which attended the meeting as observers supported our position and we need to start [words indistinct] are now on the way to request the commercial banks at another (?club) meeting this month for a similar relief on the commercial debts contracted by the last administration. We have respected our decisions and commitments with the IMF to avoid a new commercial borrowing and no such new direct or guaranteed commercial transactions have been acquired by us. We are grateful to all of those countries, international financial institutions, our citizens and our partners in progress who assisted us through those difficult months. We have established a committee under the chairmanship of the minister of finance to work out and report to us the annual interest being paid under the scheme and the annual principal repayment when the bond becomes negotiable.

In the name of the PRC, and in my own name as its chairman and head of state, I take this opportunity to thank all Liberian workers and foreign nationals in the [words indistinct] who have sacrificed by contributing to the national savings bond program. [applause]. The national savings bonds collection in the first month of the scheme, being less than $12.5 million, should not therefore be viewed as the scheme being unsuccessful. Let the budgetary problems (?shut) off, the tension will turn to the debt bodies who may request to the Paris club and request Liberian financial officials' pressure to [words indistinct] of our external debt. The meeting was held in December 1980 and we presented a case for relief, stressing the various steps being taken to restore the public sector finances and to bring the entire economy to sound position. In addition to our efforts to repair our damaged economy, all efforts are being made to keep other vital institutions and programs viable. We are making steady progress toward providing free and quality education to the masses of our people and to improve the qualities of those responsible to teach our children. We have reduced tuition on most boarding institutions in the country nearly by 75 percent. We are making the necessary effort to ensure that end of next fiscal year, a new salary scale could be implemented for teachers. Tribute, therefore, must be given to all those who provided us the opportunity for their involvement in thie endeavor.

All efforts are being made to continue to improve the health conditions in the country. Labor unrests have been contained, thanks to the understanding of our workers who are aware of the suffering state of our economy. The Council deems it necessary to establish a superministry to divert labor from youth and sports so that it can deal effectively and speedily with labor matters. We hope they will exercise the highest degree of understanding and fair play in dealing with workers. In the course of our first anniversary, we took a number of measures to encourage efficiency and expediency in government. We appointed all managing directors and board of public corporations and became necessary to reshuffle the cabinet to reflect greater geographical balance. We will endeavor to continue the vital national projects started by the past regime. It is interesting to note that in spite of the increase in the cost of living, we have not suffered any major shortage in basic commodities. The nation is still alive in all aspects and we can only promise a better future for all of our people. [applause] We undertook a nationwide tour with the aim of understanding the problems of our peoples. That tour was indeed [words indistinct]. We saw a people willing and ready to serve the country. We have an understanding of their needs and wish to address ourselves to such needs as our financial conditions improve. We congratulate all the superintendants of counties and territories for their active role in promoting the aims and objectives of the revolution.

Fellow citizens and friends, as we enter the second phase of our revolution [words indistinct] you are convinced that this government came to power to correct injustices against the masses of our people by the past administration. We must realize that every citizen has the right to [words indistinct] of life with particular regard to his human and civil liberty. No citizen or foreigner should be arrested or molested simply because an official of government wants to do so. Our actions must be just and in (?consonnance) with the dictates of our conscience. Even though our constitution has been suspended, it is (?divine) that we still have an obligation to ensure equal treatment before the law. The right to be considered innocent until proven guilty in the competent court of law; the right to be represented by oneself or by councel; and finally, the right to life itself. [applause] We also declare the confidentiality of [words indistinct].

In keeping with the financial institution [words indistinct] of stealing, a court order. The governor of the National Bank of Liberia is to impose strict adherence to this provision.

My fellow citizens, our concern of the government created to serve our people is not to continue to dwell on the [word indistinct] and errors of the past. Our concern now is to put behind us the unfortunate circumstances of the past and immediately begin to translate into realities the hope we raised and the promises we made. [applause] We will pursue a systematic course of national unity, eliminating all axioms and premises that divide us. Indeed, today one of the highest virtues is forgiveness. To add to the jubilation of this festive occasion, the PRC has decided to release from further detention, the following persons. As I have said in the past [passage indistinct].

In conclusion, fellow citizens, we want every man and woman to think seriously about our future and our country. Let us support the revolution by protecting our nation and helping the people to live a better life in unity, peace and happiness. In the cause of the people, the struggle continues. [applause]

Further Details

AB121852 Paris AFP in French 1525 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Monrovia, 12 Apr (AFP)--The appointment of a 25-member national commission to draw up a new constitution and the release of 19 political prisoners constitute the two main points in a speech on Sunday by M Sgt Samuel K. Doe, the Liberian head of state, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the coup d'etat.

Among the released prisoners are two former defense ministers--Mr Allan H. Williams and Mr James Gbabea, who was in office during the coup d'etat--three former deputy ministers, and various political personalities as well as heads of state corporations.

In reply to a question by a journalist, the justice minister disclosed that 24 political prisoners are still in detention. Among them is Mr A. B. Tolbert, the elder son of President William Tolbert, who was assassinated during the coup d'etat. A. B. Tolbert was arrested last June at the French Embassy in Monrovia where he had sought refuge.

The commission entrusted with the drawing up of the constitution is presided over by Dr Amos Sawyer, head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Liberia and executive member of the Movement for Justice in Africa, one of the opposition movements to the Tolbert government, along with the Progressive People's Party.

NIGERIA

COMMUNIQUE ON ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT REPORTED

AB121137 Paris AFP in French 0755 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Lagos, 12 Apr (AFP)--Nigeria and Algeria stated on Saturday afternoon that the Western Saharan conflict could be solved through the implementation of OAU and UN resolutions. This is contained in a joint communique signed by the two countries following Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's official visit to Lagos.

In fact, according to the communique, the leaders of Algeria and Nigeria--both members of the OAU ad hoc committee on Western Sahara--assert that a lasting solution to the conflict in this part of the African Continent could be found in the implementation of the OAU and the UN resolutions on the decolonization of Western Sahara and the realization of the self-determination and the independence of the Saharan people.

One notes that Nigeria, as a member of the ad hoc committee, has up to this point recognized the Polisario as the sole representative of the Saharan people, but has not, as a member of the committee, recognized the SDAR as a state.

According to the official text, speaking on Chad, Shehu Shagari and Chadli Bendjedid expressed their deep concern over the continuation of the crisis and reaffirmed their conviction that a fair and lasting peace can be found within the framework of the recommendations of the Lagos accords reached under the auspices of the OAU.

As for the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state expressed their disapproval of the failure of the recent Geneva summit on Namibia and have vigorously condemned the racist South African regime's repeated incursions into the territories of independent African countries.

According to the communique, Shehu Shagari and Chadli Bendjedid have appealed to the international community to reject any attempts to install a non-representative and non-democratic government in Namibia.

The two heads of state also stated that no lasting solution could be found in the Middle East without the participation of the PLO. On this issue, they condemned the security, peace and territorial integrity of this country.

Finally, the two heads of state deplored the lack of progress in negotiations for a new economic world order under the auspices of the United Nations; they appealed to the industrialized countries to reconsider their attitudes in the interest of humanity.

On bilateral cooperation, the two heads of state decided to strengthen consultations at all levels with the goal of signing a cooperation agreement in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields within a very short time.

CHAD'S GOUKOUNI MEETS WITH BENDJEDID IN LAGOS

AB101456 Paris AFP in French 1152 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] Lagos, 10 April (AFP)--It has been learned from a reliable source that the Chadian president, Goukouni Queddei, arrived on Thursday evening in Lagos where late Friday morning he had a face-to-face meeting with the Algerian head of state, Chadli Bendjedid, who has been in the Nigerian capital on an official visit since noon Thursday.

Presidents Bendjedid and Goukouni were supposed to take part on Friday in a limited summit sponsored by the OAU on the subject of Chad, a summit which was canceled at the last moment because, according to informed sources, of the defection of two participants, Col Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and the president of Cameroon, Ahmadou Ahidjo. Presidents Shehu Shagari (Nigeria) and Siaka Stevens (Sierra Leone) were also supposed to be at this summit.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL ASSESSES SITUATION IN SOFALA PROVINCE

LD121728 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 11 Apr 81 EA

[Speech by President Samora Machel in Beira on 10 April at end of meeting to assess work by teams monitoring the "political and organizational offensive" in Sofala Province--recorded]

[Excerpts] We have come to Sofala. When we arrived we defined the objectives of our working tour. We said: We want to see; we want to live.

We then held a second assessment meeting. We heard reports from the monitoring teams which worked in various sectors of economic activity. We found the situation had not changed much. We found out that there were still anomalies, irregularities, lack of coordination and leadership and power.

After visiting schools in Beira, and because of serious irregularities and inefficiencies that we noted, we decided to form a team exclusively dedicated to the problems of education.

The Province of Sofala is potentially rich. It can produce all the food it requires to feed all its people. It can produce in excess.

We now ask ourselves: Why is the Province of Sofala still importing its food? Why is our precious timber for export now rotting? Why is our cotton not exported immediately?

We noted that the following was the main reason: The people are ignored. The people who are the main and decisive force are not participating but are simply spectators, unaware of their power and intelligence. Here, there arises a contradiction between the revolution and reaction, between the socialist and capitalist systems.

In the capitalist system, the people are truly mere spectators. They are consumers of the corruption produced by the system. This contradiction is essentially based on the methods of work we are using. Very often the methods of work we use are not ours. They are not socialist methods. They are capitalist methods. This is in serious contradiction to our guidelines, the guidelines of our party and state. We do not seek the solutions of the [national] plan among the people. We do not listen to the opinion of the people. The people do not participate in debates seeking for solutions. And in this way we lose the people's thoughts. We do not do what the people think. We do not accurately use the correct ideas of the people. In this way we weaken the main and decisive force.

It is not by chance that we do not want to include the people. In this way we weaken the main and decisive force.

It is not by chance that we do not want to include the people. It is (?all done on purpose). We do not want to. Why? It is because we do not want the people to control us. We want to continue loitering like vagabonds. We want to practice vagabondage and immorality by destroying our own natural resources, the riches of our people. So where is the existence or the basis of our people's power when we do not live with the people? With whom do we live when we do not live with them? This is a question for all of you, particularly the administrators.

This state of affairs explains, why, in some places, we came face to face with typically colonial situations. A case in point is in Haminga and other railroad stations. The present stationmasters are servants of colonialism. These stationmasters are former PIDE [Portuguese intelligence service] agents. They used to belong to the MP, OPV, Flechas, Commandos, GE, GEP [former military and paramilitary organizations of the Portuguese colonial regime]. (?These are the people who control) our economy and our power. We now can see why they weaken our economy. They do not want to be detected and denounced.

This enemy action is spreading all over Sofala Province, particularly at harbors and railroads. (?They weaken our economy) at stations and at administration headquarters through which the railroad passes. It is these enemy agents who are implementing the Frelimo policy, the policy of our party. These are the implementers of the policy, the policy of our party. These are the implementers of the policy of the people's democratic state apparatus.

Sofala is such a rich land that it simply cannot be accepted that it should not be self-reliant in beans, corn, peanuts, sorghum, potatoes, sweet potatoes and fruit. We cannot accept scrubland, cattle and fleas in Beira town. There are cases of abuse of power which we cannot accept. We cannot accept that people should not live peacefully. They have the right to live peacefully.

This state of affairs does not come about by chance. It is the result of enemy action to provoke contradictions within the people and to sow discord everywhere.

The problems we detected in Sofala demand local answers because the people are always ready to struggle. Our people are hard-working people. They are determined people. They are courageous people. Our people are people who want (?unity). They are generous people.

We should not expect the answers to our problems to fall from heaven with [as heard] effort from us.

We want revolution and we should be aware that the people make the revolution. Its triumph entirely depends on their work. It entails the active participation of all strata of society.

We should not make sacrifices for selfish interests, capitalist interests and individual interests. We cannot make sacrifices in that sense. In this way we shall make the plan--the 1981 state central plan--triumph. Only by observing such rules shall we make the decade of victory over underdevelopment a triumph. In that manner we shall make socialism triumph so as to enable our people to have a prosperous, happy and peaceful life.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES REGIONAL COOPERATION

LD111850 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says his government is ready to [words indistinct] new demands from South Africa's prosperity for the development of neighbor states and the whole southern African region. Officially opening the Rand show in Johannesburg, he said this is not a matter of charity, which brought no gratitude and developed no one. South Africa was proposing a process of constructive cooperation. Let us confer together, said Mr Botha; let us plan together; let us build together the economic prosperity of southern Africa; and in this way we will inherit more than economic prosperity.

Stressing the importance of economic realism, Mr Botha said that without idealism, whatever form it took, nationalism, regionalism and aspiration of smaller communities or even individuals, nothing could be achieved. Attention would have to be given to the practical ways in which the citizens, the inhabitants and governments of the black national states could share in the income flowing from the economic growth of South Africa. Mr Botha said the distribution of economic prosperity had become one of the most important international problems of the times. It was reverberating in all the great halls of the world, but unfortunately often with more shouting than sharing. And in Moscow, the imperialists were trying to exploit this conflict to their own advantage. Their aim was destruction rather than equitable distribution. South Africa has resolved that its neighbors should help one another to make the best use of profitable opportunities in the common economy.

Mr Botha went on to say that his government envisaged the promotion of new economic and industrial growth in the development areas based upon the human and physical potential of those areas. However, there was no intention of smothering industrial growth in South African metropolitan areas.

The South African prime minister met two heads of state during calls at the Rand show on several national pavilions. At the Transkei exhibition, which won the award for the best on the show, Mr Botha met President Kaiser Matanzima and at the Venda pavilion Mr botha met President Patrick Mphephu. Mr Botha also visited the West German and Austrian pavilions and was shown around the exhibitions by the respective ambassadors of those countries to South Africa.

ZAMBIA

PRESIDENT KAUNDA MEETS WITH U.S. OFFICIAL

LD121608 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 0400 GMT 12 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Lusaka--The American presidential adviser, Mr Chester Crocker, has held talks with President Kaunda of Zambia. He arrived in Lusaka from Dar es Salaam yesterday. Topics included efforts for peaceful independence for Namibia and the situation in Angola. Ndugu Kuanda said at the discussion that he was studying Mr Crocker's proposals.

While in Dar es Salaam, where he held discussions with government leaders, Mr Crocker was told that Tanzania objected to any American move which would destabilize the government in Angola.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE ADDRESSES OFFICERS ON NEED FOR UNIFIED ARMY

LD111026 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says his government will not tolerate an army with divided loyalties. Addressing a group of 27 former ZIPRA and ZANLA [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army and Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] guerrillas who have just completed a senior officer orientation course at the Zimbabwe Staff College in Salisbury, Comrade Mugabe stressed that his government is determined to create a united national army. Comrade Mugabe told the officers that despite their former political allegiances they have come to the same destination, the Zimbabwe National Army.

He pointed out that their graduation presupposes their acceptance of the principle of oneness of the national army, together with its single loyalty and allegiance to the state and the legitimate government. Comrade Mugabe said: I hope, therefore, that you are not creating (?out of you) a tripartite senior officer establishment, just as I hope that the current integration exercise is not leading to a tripartite army.

The 27 Former ZIPRA and ZANLA combatants have trained for the ranks of lieutenant colonel and above. Their new appointments to command units of their own will be gazetted within the next few days. The officers are the first members of the integrated army drawn from former guerrillas and security forces to be given command of military units since the process began over a year ago.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES LIFTING OF BULAWAYO CURFEW

LD111058 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The 4-month old curfew which was imposed in the Bulawayo western suburbs following last year's disturbances has been lifted with immediate effect. This was disclosed at a news conference in Salisbury this afternoon by the minister of home affairs, Comrade Richard Hove. Comrade Hove said the move follows the recently registered improvement in the security situation in and around Bulawayo. Saying that the violent clashes last year had marred the history of Zimbabwe since independence, Comrade Hove warned that the government would not hesitate to reimpose the curfew if the situation deteriorates in future. He appealed to the people in the western suburbs of the city to conduct themselves lawfully and continue to maintain law and order. Comrade Hove added, however, that the inmates of the camp at the Gwaai River mine will have to be disarmed to ensure the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

BRIEFS

ITALIAN LOAN FOR ANGOLA--The People's Republic of Angola and Italy have concluded an agreement according to which Italy will give Angola about 36 million kwanzas. The money, which amounts to about $12 million, will be repaid by the National Bank of Angola after 10 years. The agreement was signed by the governor of the National Bank of Angola, Comrade (Jose Victor de Calvali) and the vice minister of foreign affairs of Italy, (Aristides Gomila), in Rome. [Text] [Luanda Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 81 AB]

ANGOLAN-ITALIAN OIL ACCORD--The Angolan Combustible and Supply Company (Sonangol) and an Italian private company yesterday signed an agreement in Luanda under which they will operate jointly an oil exploration of the Angolan bloc 1 offshore. The agreement, which will be submitted to the Angolan Council of Ministers, provides that exploration will be made on 8 wells and if successful, the two partners will extend the number of wells to 11. [Text] [Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 7 Apr 81 AB]

ANGOLAN-GDR ENERGY AGREEMENT--The People's Republic of Angola and the GDR signed in Luanda yesterday a protocol agreement in the field of energy. It was signed on the Angolan side by the minister of energy, Comrade Pedro van Dunen, and on the GDR side by the deputy minister of [title and name indistinct]. [Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Apr 81 AB]

ANGOLAN-MOZAMBIQUE UNIVERSITIES--The Universities of Angola and Mozambique have signed a 5-year cooperation agreement. Under the agreement, the two universities will exchange lecturers. They will also carry out extensive researches jointly, including seminars to focus attention on lectures. On the Angolan side the agreement was signed by Dr Eduardo dos Santos, director of the faculty of medicine, and (Fernando Ganiao), director of the University of Mozambique. [Text] [Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Apr 81 AB]